

St. John's Emmenton 9:30 1/7/68

Prelude
*Hymn 123
*Call to Worship Page 7
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading #10 563
Hymn 127
Scripture Psalm 90
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Prayer & response
Anthem
Offering, Response, Prayer
Announcements

*Hymn 426
*Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 121
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Postlude

Calem Lemartine 11:00 1/7/68

*Processional Hymn 54
*Call to Worship Page 7
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Psalm 90
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Prayer and Response ELIZABETH OSCHMAN
~~Announcements~~
Offering, Response, Prayer
Announcements

CONSISTORY 7:30 MONDAY
YOUTH FELL, 6:30 TONIGHT

*Hymn 426
*Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 161
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Postlude

OLC CITY HOSPITAL
ELIZABETH OSCHMAN

DENMARK MANOR
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph Link Guest Speaker
Mary Esler Organist
Paul Brinker Choir Director

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
January 4, 1970 11:00 A.M.

WE GATHER IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL

PRELUDE
*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 123
*CALL TO WORSHIP No. 482
*CONFESSION OF SINS

Our Father God, we acknowledge and confess our many sins which we have committed by thought, word, and deed, against you and our neighbors. Have mercy on us for the sake of your Son our Savior. Forgive us all our sins and offenses, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit; that we may hereafter love and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*KYRIE ELEISON

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*THE PRAISE

Pastor: Praise you the Lord.

People: The Lord's Name be praised.

*GLORIA PATRI

ANTHEM

Eugene McCluskey

"Though Your Sins Be As Scarlet"

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

COLLECT

SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

No. 202

1st & 4th Verse with Amen

SERMON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Statement of Faith
*HYMN No. 124

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Page 12

PRAYER RESPONSE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

*The Presentation - The Doxology

*The Lord's Prayer

*HYMN

No. 290

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED - OUR SERVICE BEGINS

*denotes standing

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Mrs. Ruth Loughner in honor of Brenda Hague's 13th birthday.

We welcome to our pulpit this morning Mr. Ralph Link from Wheeling, W. Va. He is in his last year of Lay Ministry School. Mr. Link will be with us the last two Sundays of January, also.

Next Sunday, Rev. Robert Musser will be with us. He will install the new church officers.

Annual reports are now due.

Don't forget to pick up your 1970 offering envelopes on the table in the Narthex.

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 18th, to begin with a covered dish dinner following the worship service.

The downstairs Church School Teachers are planning a Stanley Party, February 2, 1970. Proceeds to go to the Building Fund.

The Decorating Committee wishes to thank the few who turned out to take down the Christmas decorations Friday.

TUESDAY, January 6, 6:30 P.M. Boy's Recreation

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 7, 6:30 Girl's Recreation

7:30 P.M. Senior Choir Practice

THURSDAY, 6:30 P.M. Young Men's Recreation

NEXT SUNDAY, Jan. 11, Installation of church officers.

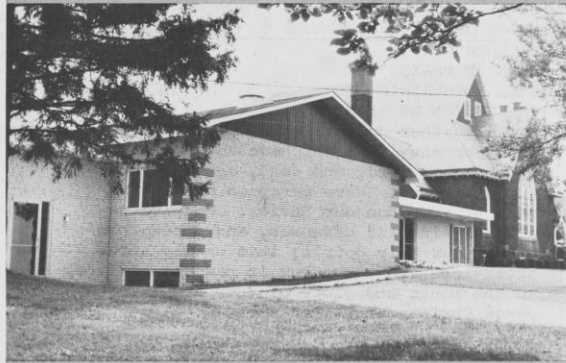
6:00 P.M. Pairs & Spares Covered Dish Dinner. Entertainment - Helen Kemerer Group.

Greeters - Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Florek
Acolyte - Brian Kelly
Nursery - Dolores Brentzel
Anita Galko

SUNDAY, December 28, 1969

Our Christian World Mission	959.95
Building Fund	724.75
Attendance	105

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ



65 MANOR VALLEY ROAD
EXPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE 327-1814

a hopeless drunk for many, many years suddenly turned into a sober and religious man. For this he had to bear the taunts and teasings of his fellow workers. They would ask him all different kinds of questions about his beliefs and what had religion done for him. They were teasing him this one day at work and they asked him if he believed in the miracles of Jesus. He said yes he did. They said do you really believe for instance that he turned water into wine and a few loaves of bread and fish into enough to feed a large multitude. He said, "Well I don't know whether he turned water into wine, but I do know that in my own home He turned beer into furniture." And this is what Christ is to the believer. He is the roots to hold our faith and He is what we can cling to. So we need never fear the new year or any other time for that matter as long as we have Christ to cling to.

On a test that was held in a certain school the question was asked, "Upon what do hibernating animals subsist during the winter?" One little girl answered, "On the hope of spring." Now isn't this like a lot of people live? They hope that things will get better. They hope they will have better luck next year. They rap on wood to insure they will have good luck. And they hope and hope and hope again. Perhaps some of you may recall the comedian who was around about the time of Joe Penner, Al Pierce. He would make a statement and finish it with, I hope, I hope, I hope. Many people are continually hoping, but they never do anything concrete about changing hope into reality. We are each given a certain length of time to live on this earth. Some people live a lot longer than others. But one thing we all have in common and that is the fact that none of us knows when, "Our years will come to an end like a sigh." The Sunday before Thanksgiving my family and I were at a farewell dinner given for us at one of the Churches we served for the last year and one half. One of the men there who was the church treasurer and a man I got to know and become very good friends with, was one of the last I said so long to that evening. We joked as we always did and I told him I would be around to see him and check on him from time to time. Thanksgiving evening we were sitting at home with some relatives and friends and the phone rang. Upon answering it I learned that Gene had passed away very suddenly that afternoon. Still a young man of 43. One Sunday we shared a meal and the next Sunday I literally helped to bury him. This is something over which we have no control. This being the case we should make the best possible use of the time allotted to us while we are here. We need to have more than hope to face each new year. Charles Dickens wrote a short story entitled, "The Chimes." The story takes place on New Years Eve. A character in the story named Sir Joseph Bowley settles all of his accounts before the first stroke of New Years day. He explained that if death should come then his affairs will all be in order. Have you ever encountered people like this? They seem to feel that if they leave their earthly things in order this action may sort of ease what is to come after death. They are concerned

that they will be called to account for their past actions. Therefore their life is built on hope. Hope that if they pay their earthly accounts and debts God will add this to the credit side of the ledger. A life based on hope alone is fruitless. We can hope from now until next year at this time and if we don't do anything about making our hope a reality it will still be hope. If our lives are built on hope alone we need to look a little deeper to see just what it is we believe. The words of a familiar and beloved hymn state what our belief should be.

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name. On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand. This is what we all should be able to say and this is where our hope should be placed. Christ came into the world and suffered for you and I and He ended hoping once and for all.

Then there are those people who face each new year with confidence and reassurance. Have you ever watched someone doing what to us seems like a very difficult task? They do it so easily and make it look like play instead of work. Working at a trade as I once did I often had the opportunity to see other workmen doing their jobs. I never ceased to be amazed for instance at a bricklayer and how he could lay row after row of brick nice and straight right on up to the top. To see them do it it looks simple. This is what comes from having not only the know how, but the self confidence that is only possible after doing the job for a certain length of time. So it is with us. If our lives are so ordered that we put all of our faith in God, we have the reassurance that with Christ as our example we can live without fear. We can face tomorrow and tomorrows tomorrow with the confidence that only comes from a Christ centered life. Our outlook for the new year is determined by how strong our belief is. If our belief is shallow and rather wishy washy then we perhaps have a fear of what is to come, or a hope that things will be different. But if our belief is strong then we can be confident of the future, for we know that God will see us through. Confidence is something we gain through a learning process, and most people have gained this only after trial and error. No doubt most of us here have traveled this route. We started out as small children in the church and like almost all children had doubts about the future. We grew in the church and somewhere along the line only had hope. But when we matured we found Christ as the only answer to our lives and we look to the future with confidence. But the sad thing is that not all people have matured to this degree. Many of these people we are talking about are not outside the church. They attend church and are members. But somehow they have been stunted in their Christian growth. It is these people that need to be reached. Complete faith is something that cannot be transmitted to someone else. It is something we either have or we don't. It must be tried and tested by the individual

involved before it can become a reality in his life. It is the people without faith who are the mixed up people of the world. I listened to a radio announcer several days before new years day and he was bemoaning the fact that in the sixties we had riots and bombings and assassinations and war and just about everything else and he asked the question, "What do we have to look forward to in the seventies." To him the answer is another decade of confusion and frustration. To anyone who is willing to really live and accept Jesus Christ at His word, he can have life and have it more abundantly. If we cannot get the message across in any other way, then perhaps by the very living of our lives in love and self sacrifice in serving we can show those outside the fold we belong to Christ. And when we have the confidence that we should have because we are followers and believers and lovers of Christ and Christianity we can say as the Apostle Paul did, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." And fear is gone. Hoping is a thing of the past. And when our years come to an end like a sigh, we know that Christ will be with us and we with Him.

LIVING NOW IN THIS AGE IS EXCITING & CHALLENGING!

The Prophet Amos

Amos

Text:

This morning I would like to share with you a sermon I have been a long time getting up the nerve to give. It is not that it is so controversial, but because it tells a story of a wonderful man, a prophet named Amos. What makes it so difficult in the giving of it is the fact that I shall present it in story form. I have a copy of a description of Amos's sermon by Henry Morgenstern. I am using some of it and taking the liberty of writing some of my own description.

Amos was considered to be one of the new breed of prophet. He denied that he was a prophet. Nothing is really known about him except what we can get from his book. His autobiography is found in Amos 8, 10 and 17. The name Amos means burden bearer. He was a southerner who had his entire ministry in the northern kingdom. In fact, his was the shortest ministry on record. All he gave was one complete sermon. Amos was a native of a tiny village southeast of Bethlehem. ~~HE WAS CALLED THE SHEPHERD OF TEKOA~~ He had two part time jobs, neither of which was a good one. He was a shepherd and a fig stabber. What this consisted of was working in the early spring. When the sycamore figs were beginning to fill out and were getting nice and juicy, but had not started to ripen yet, he would wander about and with a good sharp stick punch holes in the figs to let the juice run out. This caused the fig to wither up and it was then used for cattle feed. These may not have been very glamorous jobs but through it all Amos was a very courageous man, very intellectual and a magnificent poet.

The reigns of Jerabohim and Azzihah were not only lengthy and prosperous, but they were reigns of peace. Great riches were accumulated by a few and social injustices prevailed. The leaders were arrogant and there was vast social discontent. Religious observances were still held, but religion was not important for many were greedy and power bent. One day in his role as a shepherd Amos went on a business trip to Samaria to sell his wool. While he was there he probably experienced some of the unrest and there he saw ~~the~~ all around him the ignorance, indulgence and vice. He probably made an annual trip there each year and saw the rich getting richer and the poor sinking deeper into poverty. When he returned home and out in the fields with his sheep he had time to brood and to

and to think of his experiences in Samaria. Then one year he happened to be in Samaria at the time of the New Years festival and so he went to Bethel along with the great ~~crowds~~ there in the Temple to celebrate the coming of the new year.

all through the night the people had been gathering in the Temple courtyard. This was the time of the split and there were ^{kingdoms} two Temples, one in Bethel and one in Jerusalem. One in the northern kingdom and one in the southern kingdom. Eagerly and anxiously they were waiting for the coming of light. The great moment would come when the rising sun would cast its first rays through the open doors of the Temple and shine upon the altar. That was the highpoint of this celebration. But all is quiet as the faithful wait in the courtyard in the darkness. But suddenly in the darkest of the early morning, about a half hour before the coming of the dawn a voice arose. A strange voice from out of that vast and milling throng. And so Amos began his sermon. "Thus says the Lord; For the three crimes ~~of Damascus~~ the four crimes of Damascus I have made my decree and will not relent: because they have thrashed Gilead with iron threshing sledges, I am going to hurl fire on the house of Hazael to burn up Ben-hadads palces; I am going to break the gate bars of Damascus, and cut down the one enthroned at Bikath-aven and the sceptered one at ~~Beth~~ Beth-eden; and the people of Aram shall go captive to Kir. The Lord has spoken." That was his first utterance and of course he had attracted the attention of the people. Here was a man who was evidently a prophet speaking in the name of Yahweh and proclaiming the doom of Israels arch enemy. This was just fine because the people of Israel never did like the people of Damascus. They were very arrogant and always trying to get tribute out of Israel. They were just getting what was coming to them, Then after a moment of silence the voice continued. "For the three ~~crimes~~, the four crimes of Gaza I have made my decree and will not ~~telent~~: because they have deported entire nations as slaves to Edom, I am going to hurl fire on the walls of Gaza to burn up her palaces. I am going to cut down the one enthroned at Ashdod and the sceptred one at Ashkelon; I am going to turn my hand against Ekron until the last of the Philistines is dead. The Lord has spoken." Here is another of Israel's enemies condemned, and then he continues. He speaks of the condemnation of Israel's neighbors and enemies. Chapter 1, 9 to 15, and 2 to 5. Then he talks to Israel. He had told all about their enemies and the people were swelling up with pride and poking one another and saying, "Now listen what is going to happen

to our next door neighbor. But suddenly he is talking about Israel and he has the nerve to do it here in their royal shrine, in the cathedral church of the capital ~~ty.~~ ^{THE PEOPLE ARE STUNNED & LISTEN MUTELY AS} the voice drones on, "For the three crimes, the four crimes of Israel I have made my decree and will not relent: because they have sold the virtuous man for silver and the poor man for a pair of sandals, because they trample on the heads of ordinary people and push the poor out of their path, because father and son have both resorted to the same girl, profaning my Holy name, because they stretch themselves out by the side of every altar on clothes acquired as pledges, and drink the wine of the people they have fined in the house of their God, The Lord has spoken." Then he goes on for one more stanza, "Your many transgressions I know and how great your sins. The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob, surely I will never forget your deeds. Go to Bethel and sin, to Gilgal and sin your hardest. Offer your sacrifices each morning and your tithes on the third day, burn leavened dough as a sacrifice with praise, announce your voluntary offerings make them public, for this is what makes you happy sons of Israel. The Lord has spoken." While the hushed multitude stands stunned by his prophecy Amos hits where it hurts the most, he takes a swipe at the women, who were mostly wealthy society ladies, "Listen to this you cows of Bashan living in the mountains of Samaria, oppressing the needy, crushing the poor, saying to your husbands, 'Bring us something to drink.'" The Lord Yahweh swears by His Holiness; the days are coming to you now when you will be dragged out with hooks, the very last of you with prongs. Out you will go, each by the nearest breach in the wall, to be driven all the way to Hermon. The Lord has spoken." And just as he finishes speaking this, the first light of dawn breaks. He can be seen standing in a far corner ~~here~~ in the shadow of a large column. And as the light grows in brightness and dispels the shadows there stands a very rude looking, rough clothed unkempt hill billy preacher. At this the Temple priest ^{Amaziah} is enraged and he shrieks, "You dreamer, be off to Judah and earn your living there. Play the preacher there, but never here at Bethel. For this is the royal shrine, this is the national Temple." This was the end of Amos's ministry. Perhaps the shortest on record. Nothing more was ever heard from him. The book of Amos has undergone more editorial change than any other book of the Bible. This means that other people have added their thoughts and comments and therefore his message is rather difficult to recognize as a sermon. It is rather lengthy and I am certain that not too many of us would sit still that long, ^{TO HEAR A SERMON LIKE IT.}

There are arguments pro and con about the message and the purpose of the prophets. There are those who believe that the prophets were predicting the future, such as speaking to us today. Then there are those who believe that the prophets were speaking to their own age and their own day. We can take our choice as to what we believe. I personally believe that they spoke to their age. But how about those prophecies that seem to be speaking just to us today? History has a way of being repeated. Man today is no different than he was in the Day of the prophets. He still does the same sinning as then. He is still as evil as he was then, so we can find many parallels in the Bible to suit our times. If we look about us in our nation today we can see that the prophecy of Amos would suit us perfectly. We are an arrogant and proud people. We refuse to give to God what we should. We want to give just so much and keep the rest for ourselves. We have exploited the poor and the down-trodden. All of these things is what Amos was hitting at. So when some preacher comes on the radio and says God was talking about 20th century America when he said such and so in Amos, before we turn him off or pass him off as some kind of nut, let us think ^{INSTEAD} that ~~perhaps~~ God is still speaking to mankind through His Holy word. We can interpret it as we will, but God has spoken through men before and he will continue to do so as long as there is someone who will listen. Billy Graham is ^{AN EXAMPLE OF A} modern day prophet. But when he speaks there are those who scoff and sneer and pass him off as a kook or a nut. He is out of his tree they say. But God is speaking through him as he does through anyone who will speak for Him. There is a poem or a hymn that states something like, "God has no hands but ours, no ears, no feet, etc. meaning that we are the instruments of God. That it is we who must do the working and ^{THE} exertion for God. If this is our duty then we should be at it. And if we should be at it we must prepare ourselves for it. So I ask that you join me in prayer, ^{we} as close using a beloved hymn as our prayer, let us pray. Pg. 256 Hymnal

DENMARK MANOR
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph Link Guest Speaker
Mary Esler Organist
Paul Brinker Choir Director

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
January 18, 1970 11:00 A.M.

WE GATHER IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL

PRELUDE

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 29

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*CONFESSION OF SINS

Our Father God, we acknowledge and confess our many sins which we have committed by thought, word, and deed, against you and our neighbors. Have mercy on us for the sake of your Son our Savior. Forgive us all our sins and offenses, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit; that we may hereafter love and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*KYRIE ELEISON

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*THE PRAISE

Pastor: Praise you the Lord.

People: The Lord's Name be praised.

*GLORIA PATRI

ANTHEM "Walk With Us, Lord" Margaret Lokey

WE HEAR AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

COLLECT

SCRIPTURE Joes 2: 26 - 32

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

1st & 4th Verse with Amen

No. 202

SERMON "The Prophet Amos"
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Statement of Faith
*HYMN No. 272

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Pastor: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Page 12

PRAYER RESPONSE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

*The Presentation - The Doxology

*The Lord's Prayer

*HYMN

No. 380

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED - OUR SERVICE BEGINS

*denotes standing

PASTOR HERE 10:00 PM

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Martin in memory of Myrtle A. Glunt.

We welcome to our pulpit this morning Mr. Ralph Link from Wheeling, W. Va. He will be with us next Sunday, also.

Greeters	Mr. & Mrs. Herb Good
Nursery	Pauline Marcinkewic
	Doris Branthoover
Acolyte	Leann Comfry

SUNDAY, January 11, 1970

Regular Offering	\$273.55
Attendance	123

TODAY, Annual Congregational Meeting to begin
with a covered dish dinner following the
worship service.

MONDAY, Jan. 19, 6:30 P.M. Jr. Choir Practice
7:00, Slimnastics
7:30, Christian Education Meeting

TUESDAY, Jan. 20, 6:30, Boy's Recreation

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21, 6:30, Girl's Recreation

THURSDAY, Jan. 22, 6:30, Young Men's Rec.

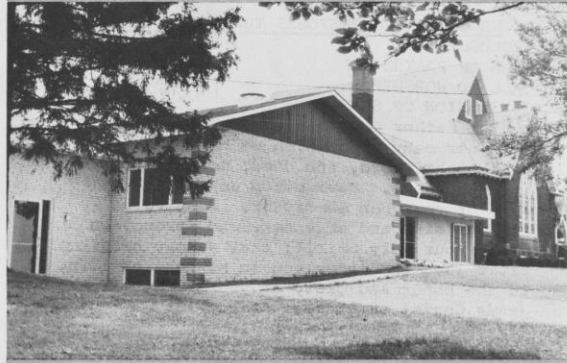
FRIDAY, Jan. 23, 8:00 P.M. Mission Circle
Class Meeting

January 26, 1970 Winter Youth Rally (see
letter posted on bulletin board)

February 1, Short Congregational Meeting to
vote on Constitution Revisions

February 2, Stanley Party in Fellowship Hall

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ



65 MANOR VALLEY ROAD
EXPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE 327-1814

Salem Lemartine 9:30 4/13/69

Processional Hymn 184
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture John 20; 19-29
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

LADIES AID THURS. EVE. AFTER

CHURCH PRACTICE 7:00

SPRING MEETING CLAYTON ASSOC.

PARADE CHARGE TRUTVILLE

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 182
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 205
*Benediction
Threefold Amen
*Postlude

St. John Emlenton 11:00 4/13/69

*Processional Hymn 177
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Pg. 584 Sel. 34
Hymn 179
Scripture John 20; 19-29
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer & Response
Anthem
Announcements

Offering & Prayer
*Hymn 182
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 471
Benediction
Threefold Amen
*Postlude

Sunday, February 15, 1970

Mr. Ralph Link, Lay Minister

Order of Worship

Prelude

Lighting the Candles of Worship

*Hymn No. 29

*Invocation and Choral Introit

*Prayer of Confession - Our Heavenly Father, who by Your love made me, and through Your love have kept me, and in Your love would make me perfect, I humbly confess that I have not loved You with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and that I have not loved my neighbor as Christ loved me. Your life is within my soul but my selfishness has hindered You. I have not lived by faith. I have resisted your spirit. I have neglected Your inspirations. Forgive what I have been; help me to amend what I am; and in Your Spirit direct what I should be; that You may come into the full glory of Your creation, in me and in all men, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

*The Gloria Patri

Responsive Reading Sel. 19, Page 571

Hymn No. 287

The Scripture - Psalm 27

Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response

Offertory

*Doxology and Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

The Anthem "The Wondrous Cross"

The Sermon "Christian Courage"

*Hymn No. 158

*Benediction and Choral Response

*Indicates that we stand.

Greeters

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brinker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday evening at 6:30 - Junior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday evening at 7:15 - Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday evening at 7:30 - Workers' Conference

Mr. and Mrs. E. ... Beck are slowly recovering from the flu and wish to thank everyone for cards, flowers and kind thoughts extended on their behalf during their illness.

The following invitation was received by Mr. Beck:

"Dear Brethren in Christ, First United Church of Christ, Apollo, Pa. We, the people and pastor of the First United Church of Christ of Vandergrift, Pa., do hereby extend to all of you a most sincere and cordial welcome to worship with us during Lent. If there is no conflict of dates or times in our services with those of your own church, then we want you to know that we would like very much to have you come and worship with us in our church. You will find a very warm and hearty welcome into our fellowship if you come to visit with us. Come and See!

Rev. G. R. Winters

There will be services each Wednesday at 7:30 and on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of Holy Week. The preaching theme will be on the Life of Christ as portrayed in the Great Masterpieces of Art.

Record of Giving for Feb. 1, 1970

Needed to meet current budget	\$260.69
Given to local church, current fund	284.45
Needed to meet Synodical Budget	68.15
Given to Synodical Budget	42.55
Parsonage Fund	10.00

Organist

Winifred Laufer

Christian Courage

PSALM

Text: Psalm 27; 1

The word courage is defined in Webster's dictionary as, "The quality of mind that enables one to encounter difficulties and danger with firmness or without fear." When we think of this word we usually think of soldiers in battle and the heroic feats that are performed by some of them. But the courage an individual may have in every day life is often overlooked. Jesus had this kind of courage. He had to have it in order to endure the agonizing ordeal that he went through in what we call "Holy Week." Perhaps we have never thought of it in this light. But how else can we explain the calm and matter of fact way in which He faced His fate? There were probably serious doubts and misgivings in His heart and mind. He probably wanted to evade the issue. He even prayed that God would show Him another way. But when He had determined that this was God's will that He should suffer, He resolutely accepted this and with all of the courage at His command set His face toward Jerusalem and did what had to be done.

But here we stop and say, "But He was the Son of God and what does this have to do with us?" We may never have to face this type of situation but the point is that there have been men down through history who have had to muster this type of courage because of their love for Jesus Christ. The fact also remains that through the examples of common men set before us, we should be able to muster the strength and courage needed to live our individual lives. Let us look at a few examples.

John Huss was an earlier reformer of the Roman Catholic Church. He got himself into hot water for his outspoken views against some of the practices of the Church. For this he was summoned to appear before the Council of Constance for questioning. He was promised safe conduct to and from the council. He was safely conducted to the council and while there he was found guilty of speaking against the Church and was condemned to death. He was burned at the stake. A man who has never been thought of as having risked his life in his quest to reform the Church was Martin Luther. We are all familiar with his now famous answer when asked to recant and he replied, "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen." But not too many are familiar with some of the backstage maneuvers that took place here. Luther was well aware of the fate that had befallen John Huss. So when he was summoned to appear before the Council of Worms and promised safe conduct to and from it, we can be reasonably sure that he had mixed emotions about attending.

But secretly unknown even to him some of his friends went to the Council prepared to meet this eventuality. And at the point in the council meeting where it was feared he was to be seized they virtually took him prisoner and spirited him away. He was held a prisoner by these friends until it was safe for him to return without fear of being killed. This is but one example of a man in the 16th century who had the Christian courage to fight for his Lord.

But we can find other examples closer to our own times. One such case is Dietrich Bonhoeffer. For those of you who do not recognise the name, he was an eminent Theologian. He was on a par with Karl Barth and Paul Tillich. In fact this man possessed a unique type of intellect. He was brilliant and yet he was able to reach most people with his ideas. He was born in what is now East Germany. His troubles began in 1933 when he delivered a lecture broadcast against Adolph Hitler. The broadcast was cut off before he was finished. Shortly after this he accepted a call to be the pastor of two German speaking congregations in London England. He did this because he wanted no parts of Hitler's Germany. But his love for his homeland was too strong to keep him away. He became active in the resistance movement, firmly believing that in a situation such as his country was involved in, that God did not want His people and ministers to stand back and do nothing. As a result of this he was arrested in April 1943. His guards were secretly friendly to him and took him to the cells of despairing prisoners to minister to them. They also saved his letters, essays and poems. His last weeks in prison were spent with prisoners of all nationalities. An English officer wrote of him the following, "Bonhoeffer always seemed to me to spread an atmosphere of happiness and joy over the least incident and profound gratitude for the mere fact he was alive. He was one of the few persons I ever met for whom God was real and always near. On Sunday April 8, 1945, Pastor Bonhoeffer conducted a little service of worship and spoke to us in a way that went to the heart of all of us. He found the right words to express the spirit of our imprisonment, the thoughts and the resolutions it had brought us. He had hardly ended his last prayer when the door opened and two civilians entered. They said, "Prisoner Bonhoeffer, come with us." That had only one meaning for all prisoners, the gallows. We said goodbye to him. He took me aside and said, "This is the end, but for me it is the beginning of life." The next day he was hanged in Flossenbürg." Unquote. The text upon which he spoke that last day was, "With His stripes we are healed."

Another man wrote of him, "For him Christianity could never be intellectual theory, doctrine divorced from life, or mystical emotion, but always it must be responsible obedient action, the discipleship of Christ in every situation of concrete everyday life, personal and public." Unquote. This is the type of man Dietrich Bonhoeffer was. Six years before his imprisonment by the Gestapo he had written, "When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die."

But all of this is past history you say and we do not have anything like this going on today. Or do we? Are there men today who would risk their all for Jesus Christ. Of course there are and thank God that we still have people who will stand up for what they believe. We could mention several but as one instance let us think of the Rev. Father Kavanaugh of the Roman Catholic Church. Here is a man who is no longer a priest because he took a stand against what he thought to be the injustice of the Church. Whether we realize it or not the Roman Catholic Church is going through another reformation and if the present trend continues it will probably make the other reformation look like very small and insignificant event. The clergy in many areas is leading the protests.

Men like Father Kavanaugh have fought to be heard. Because of his actions he was relieved of his duties. He has since married and his marriage was performed by his brother also a priest. All of these actions have not endeared him to the hierarchy of the Church. But he still maintains he is a Catholic and they cannot take this away from him. Perhaps we cannot compare him to Martin Luther in the respect that his life may not be in danger but he is showing courage to take a stand against injustice. He is taking a stand against what he believes to be wrong. This requires a good deal of courage in a society such as ours, especially if we think of all the incidents we have read and heard of people refusing to take a stand on anything or refusing to assist someone in need. Our modern day is not conducive to making people want to be identified with anything. We are rapidly approaching the day when we will merely be a faceless number. I dread to think of myself as merely 146-24-7683 instead of my name. It just doesn't seem to be me. But as long as we have people who are willing to be silent and to stand by when the time for action arrives, then we will continue down this road. But there is still room in our society for people with Christian courage to take a stand.

We can be witnesses in our own back yards. We need not travel to distant lands or states. Right here is where some of this courage needs to be shown. Just the living of the Christian life requires a lot more courage than

most of us think it does. When we tack the name Christian behind our name we let ourselves wide open for the taunts and smears of the world. This requires courage. It takes courage to remain a Christian when we see those who are not flourish and do well in their lives and businesses. Sometimes it makes us wonder as Job did, if it is worth it. But when we compare our easy, soft leisurely lived lives, there is no comparison between us and those who have been martyred for their belief. The one main example we must always come back to for comparison is still Jesus Christ. He faced the future of a trial and execution, knowing full well that this was to be His fate. The fact that must have made it that much harder to bear was the fact that He did not deserve such a fate. He was not a criminal, nor had He committed anything that was deserving of death. But you see this is the way of the world. Commit a crime and you will be punished for it, but dare to speak out against the wrongs of society and you will be condemned for it. We can all think of illustrations to prove this and some of them have been quite recent. Just think of some of the prominent men of our country and how they have been treated because they dared to speak the truth. Now this may sound like I am saying to be a good Christian we must more or less be trouble makers and go around finding fault and exposing people for what they are. But this is only partially true. We must not compromise ourselves by becoming like the world wants us to be. We must try to help those who need help. This may take the form of helping someone who is in trouble with the law, or someone who may have done something wrong in the past and because of it is shunned by people and looked down upon. This is showing the courage of a Christian. We are not out to make names for ourselves as mud rakers or mud slingers, but we are in this world to assist and help anyone and everyone we can. Jesus gave us the guidelines when He said about visiting the prisons, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry and giving water to the thirsty, and then He said, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." This is the challenge for courage. But it requires courage to set ourselves apart from many others around us who are not of our beliefs and persuasion. We need to pray for the courage to and live the Christian life our prayer may well be, God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power; Crown thine ancient Church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour. Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be armored with all

Christlike graces in the fight to set men free. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, that we fail not man nor thee."

This is one of our familiar hymns. Yet too often as with mostly all hymns we sing them and they are merely only words. But words can move us, they can inspire up and they can motivate us if we let them. God grant that words such as these may make us willing and able to accept the Christian courage we have through Christ and to act upon it for the betterment of mankind and the furthering of God's Kingdom. Let us pray.

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF OUR LORD
FROM THE CROSS

March 27, 1970

From Noon to 3:00 P.M.



THE PRELUDE

THE CALL TO WORSHIP — (Read Responsively)

Minister: Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

People: Behold and see if there by any sorrow like unto his sorrow.

Minister: God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

People: Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.

THE INVOCATION

THE READING OF THE WORD

Mark 15:1-20

12:05

THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS

*THE HYMN

"There Is A Green Hill Far Away"

202

THE COLLECT (Unison)

Almighty God, who has shown us the true way of blessedness in the life and teaching of Thy Son; Thou hast also shown us in His suffering and death that the path of love may lead us to the cross, and the reward of faithfulness may be a crown of thorns. Give us grace to learn these hard lessons. Amen.

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:26-34

THE MEDITATION

The Rev. Elwood H. Leister

"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO"

THE SOLO

"O Ye Who Travel"

Dubois

(Sally K. Hannan, Soprano)

THE PRAYER

SILENT MEDITATION

12:30

THE WORD OF PARDON

*THE HYMN

"In the Hour of Trial"

394

THE COLLECT (Unison)

O Merciful God, have mercy upon all who know Thee not, as Thou art revealed in the gospel of Thy Son. Take from us all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of Thy word; and so bring us home to Thy fold that we may be made one flock under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

Luke 23:35-43

THE MEDITATION

The Rev. Harry Henning

"TODAY, THOU SHALT BE WITH ME IN PARADISE"

THE DUET

"I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked"

O'Hara

(Barbara Lewis, Soprano
Rheba Hill, Alto)

THE PRAYER

THE SILENT MEDITATION

12:55

THE WORD OF LOVE

*THE HYMN

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

190

THE COLLECT (Unison)

Almighty God, our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the cross for thy children. With steadfast faith may we serve Thee all the days of our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

John 19:23-27

THE MEDITATION

The Rev. F. Emerson Wood

"WOMAN BEHOLD THY SON: SON BEHOLD THY MOTHER"

THE SOLO

(Mrs. Sharon Auber, Soprano)

THE PRAYER

SILENT MEDITATION

1:20

THE WORD OF LONELINESS

*THE HYMN

"Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed?"

199

THE COLLECT (Unison)

Almighty Father, enter Thou our hearts and so fill us with Thy love that, forsaking all evil desires, we may embrace Thee our only good. Hide not Thy face from us, we beseech Thee, O Lord. Hear us, for the sake of Thine only Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

Mark 15:29-39

THE MEDITATION

The Rev. Charles E. Reichenbach

"MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAS THOU FORSAKEN ME?"

THE SOLO

"O Divine Redeemer"

Gounod

(Lenore Noel, Soprano)

THE PRAYER

SILENT MEDITATION

1:45

THE WORD OF HUMAN NEED

*THE HYMN

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

194

THE COLLECT (Unison)

Eternal God, Thou Forgiver of Sin, Healer of Sorrow, Vanguisher of Death, draw us into Thyself, who art our Salvation and our all-conquering Hope. Increase in us the true devotion unto Thyself; nourish us with all goodness, and of Thy great mercy keep us steadfast, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

John 19:28-29

THE MEDITATION

"I THIRST"

The Rev. Lee Wright

THE PRAYER

SILENT MEDITATION

2:10

THE WORD OF TRIUMPH

*THE HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

198

THE COLLECT (Unison)

Almighty God, who alone gavest us the breath of life, grant that, we may in heart be inspired by Thy wisdom, and in work be upheld by Thy strength, and in the end be accepted of Thee as Thy faithful servants, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

THE READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

John 19:30-37

THE MEDITATION

"IT IS FINISHED!"

The Rev. Frank R. Haig, S.J.

THE SOLO

"O Sacred Head"

Bach

(Sally K. Hannan, Soprano)

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, June 7, 1970

Prelude
*Processional Hymn 11
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin- page 4, 1st. Prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Lesson
I Corinthians :: 13
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 272
Sermon:
Casting Reflections
*Offering
*Offering Response (Christ)
*Prayer and Lords Prayer
*Doxology
*Recessional Hymn 278
*Benediction and Choral Amen
Postlude

*Congregation Standing

Our Pastor this morning is Ralph C. Link,
Candidate for Trinity Charge to fill the
vacancy which now exists.

Service of HOLY COMMUNION will be observed
in Trinity Charge on Sunday, JUNE 28, 1970.

The ANNUAL Perry County Sunday School
Convention will be held in the United
Church of Christ, Blain, Penna.

Date: June 14, 1970 at 6:30 p.m.

Subject: Pollution in the Christian World.
Adult and Youth discussion group sessions
will be using the same theme, "Pollution
in the soul as well as in natural surround-
ings".

Persons who have served as Sunday School
Teachers or Officers for 25 years or
50 years will be honored. If we have
any eligible persons please contact Mr.
Daniel Jefferies, Newport, Pa. for an
application form.

Penn Central Conference Meeting will be
held June 10-11-12, 1970 at Mercersburg
Academy, Mercersburg, Pa. Each Church
is requested to have one (1) voting
delegate. All Church Members are invited
and urged to attend.

The truck for clothing pick-up for Church
World Service will be at Asbury Methodist
Church, June 8.

"Belle Groups" are being formed for Perry Co.
Sesquicentennial. Anyone interested is urged
to attend the meeting June 8, - 8:00 p.m.
Perry County Court House, New Bloomfield.

Casting Reflections

Text: I Corinthians 13; 13

"In a word there are three things that last for ever: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of them all is love."

I imagine that most of us here this morning have at one time or another stood looking into a lake or pond, or another body of water. ^{AND WE FOUND} ~~then~~ if we tossed a pebble into the water it caused ripples and our reflection became distorted. Or perhaps we went to the room of mirrors in an amusement park and in each mirror we took on a different shape. ^{EX. MIMAS AS KIDS & IN COSTUME} ~~But~~ the real reflection ^{OF EACH OF US} is the one we see when we look into a normal mirror when combing our hair or shaving. This is the reflection that others see when they meet us. What sort of reflection do we show to others? Can they see a reflection of love? Or do they see one of hatred, or anger, or indifference to others? When we use a gauge for our lives we cannot use any other gauge than that of Christ. We must ask ourselves, "What would He have us do?" "How would He react?" If we do this we soon find that love begins to take precedence in our thinking. Jesus taught a Gospel of love. Other folk may try to tell us otherwise and would have us show hatred instead. But if I read the Bible correctly He not only taught a Gospel of love, but He lived it. It's true He used force to drive the money changers out of the Temple, but if we read closely we soon see the love reflect from Him. Paul interpreted the life of Christ in this way also. We read of many references Paul makes to love. The best known is the scripture we read this morning. At the end of the chapter in the last verse he states, "In a word there are three things that last for ever: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of them all is love."

Thomas Huxley was an English biologist and educator and an avowed agnostic. He was ~~arguing~~ at a house party and stayed the weekend as a guest along with some other people. When Sunday morning arrived everyone made preparations to go to church. Mr. Huxley approached one of the guests, a man known to have a very simple but radiant Christian faith. He said to him, "Suppose you don't go to church today. Suppose you stay at home and tell me quite simply what your Christian faith means to you and why you are a Christian." "But," said the man, "you could demolish my arguments in an instant. I'm not clever enough to argue with you." Huxley said gently, "I don't want to argue with you; I just want you to tell me simply what this Christ means to you." And so the man stayed home from church, and he told him as simply as he could of his faith in Christ and what it meant to him. When he had finished there were tears in the great agnostic's eyes and he said, "I would give my right hand, if only I could believe that." It wasn't clever argument that moved him. It was the simple presentation of

Christ that tore at his heart. But equally important is the fact that the man who stayed away from church did so at a sacrifice. A sacrifice he felt he had to make for Christ. This is love as expressed in the giving of ourselves to others. This is a part of the reflection we should each be casting. Sacrificing ourselves by sharing ourselves with others. Too often we think of sacrifice as only being done in the church. But this is not so. To sacrifice means to give up something. We all lead busy lives and keep tight schedules, but we should never become so busy that we cannot give someone who needs it, a moment of our time. I know that nothing can be more irritating or frustrating than to come home from a very difficult day and find something or someone that requires our help or assistance. But this we must do graciously and uncomplaining if we want to be Christian in action as well as in name. This is the mark of love.

To keep our reflection from becoming distorted as it does when looking into a defective mirror we need to learn to give of our substance. Anyone can give a donation or a gift. But the real secret is in how it is given. A man was walking down the street and he was stopped by a beggar. He reached into his pocket and discovered he had no money... But he reached out his hand and he said, "My brother I ~~cannot give you anything~~ can give you nothing but this." The beggar said, "You called me brother, you took my hand, that too is a gift." Our giving should always be from the heart. ^{ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION CONCERNS/WHO} A certain woman answered her door one day and there on her doorstep was a beggar looking for a handout. She got her purse and when she did she discovered that all she had was a large bill. She said to him, "All I have is this large bill, but I need a loaf of bread, go and buy the loaf of bread and bring me back the change." The man went to the store and returned and gave her the money. She gave him a small sum of it and he took it and looked at her with tear filled eyes and told her, "It isn't the money, it's the way you trusted me. No one ever trusted me like that and I can't thank you enough." This woman took a risk that perhaps only a fool would take, but she gave him more than money. She gave him of herself. The comfortable way to discharge our duty as a church member or a private citizen in giving is to give a sum of money and get it done and over with. But in true giving the giver must also give of himself as well as his substance. Because then it is given in love and not as an obligation. Paul said very aptly, "I may dole out all I possess, or even give my body to be burned, but if I have not love, I am none the better." This is the secret, to include love in all of our giving. To do this means that we impart something of ourselves as well as the gift. I think we have all heard or said the scripture that states, "God loves a cheerful giver." Paul stated this in 2 Cor. chapter 9. We are blessed when we give all things in love, whether it be giving thanks for our blessings or giving our money for needy causes. Perhaps our reflection is never more evident than when we give. For too often we all are prone to want to hang on to our possessions

and as much of our money as we can. This is only natural. But it is when we give of them in the proper spirit that we shine with a beautiful reflection. But if we give half heartedly we also shine, but rather ~~scarily~~ dully.

The reflection we cast, must ^{also} shine forth daily ~~also~~. It cannot be just something we talk about on Sunday and forget the rest of the week. It must be lived seven days a week. Abraham Lincoln chose a man to be his secretary of war who treated him with nothing but contempt. The man was Edward M. Stanton. There is a large statue of him in front of the court house in Steubenville Ohio and each time I pass it I think of this little story. Mr. Stanton poked fun at Mr. Lincoln and he called him the original gorilla. At this time there was a famous Frenchman who was in Africa hunting gorilla for zoos throughout the world and Stanton said this man was a fool to go to Africa when all he had to do was go to Springfield and he could capture the biggest one. He called him a, "Low cunning clown." To all of this Mr. Lincoln said nothing. When it came time to name a man as his secretary of war he named Stanton to the post. When asked why he chose him he replied that he was the best man for the job. He treated Stanton with every courtesy and did nothing to counteract the slurs and the barbs of this man. But the night came when Mr. Lincoln was felled by the assassins bullet in the theatre. In the little room where the presidents body was taken, there stood this same Stanton looking down at the silent face of Lincoln in all of its ruggedness, and with tears streaming down his face he said, "There lies the greatest ruler of men the world has ever seen." The patience of love ~~was~~ won out. It did not take the repaying of insult with insult or calling a name to counteract the name called. No, it was simply quiet, patient, love that won the heart of an enemy. This is the essence of what Christ was saying when he said to love your enemies. Too often the human reaction is to lash out in retaliation for a wrong committed against us. But we must learn to lash out with love. One of the popular songs of a short while ago stated, "What the world needs now is love sweet love, that's the only thing there is just too little of." And how true this is today. We are living in an age where a large segment of the world has forgotten the meaning of love. The strange part of it is that many of the so called Christian leaders are advocates of hatred and violence. In 1968 for instance the National Council of Churches met and passed a resolution stating, (and this is not the actual quote but a shortened version of it. I have the quote written down if anyone needs proof.) that if peaceful means does not produce results then Christians may feel called upon to seek results in resistance or revolution. Now if this is the message that Christ spoke then I believe I am reading the wrong book. He spoke of love, not hatred. He spoke of peace and not war. He spoke of helping one another and not trying to get ahead of the other fellow by hook or crook. This is the kind of reflection that He wants us to cast. A reflection of love in all things and in all ways.

We shall sing as our last hymn, "O love that wilt not let me go." This was written by Dr. George Matheson one of Scotland's better known preachers. He became totally blind soon after he entered Glasgow university but ^{still} he graduated when he was nineteen, and went from there into the ministry. He said he composed this hymn in a matter of five minutes and it was as though it was dictated to him by some inward voice, rather than him working it out himself. But the reflection of Christ is there when he states, "O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee." And the last verse tells, "O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be."

Once Christ comes into our lives we have this love that won't let us go and when we come to the cross of Christ our lives are changed and we can't escape from His love. At the end of this life's journey we have endless life and this is also a reflection from Christ. So you see our entire Christian life is permeated with this love, this reflection of Christ and we in turn must cast this reflection to others by the living and giving of ourselves daily. "In a word there are three things that last for ever: faith, hope and love; but the greatest of them all is love."

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Trinity, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M. .
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M. .

Flag Day, June 14, 1970

Rev. Bert E. Wynn, Supply Pastor

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Processional Hymn 198
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin- page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Lesson
 Old Testament Isaiah 6: 1-13
 Epistle Acts 10: 34-48
 Gospel Mark 2: 1-12
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 228
Sermon:
 Isaiah, - the Man, the Time, the Message
*Offering
*Offering Response (Christ)
*Prayer and Lords Prayer
*Doxology
*Charge to the People
*Benediction and Choral Amen
*Recessional Hymn 415
Postlude

*Congregation Standing

✓ We are glad to report to you that:
The Congregations of Trinity and Christ Churches last Sunday voted in favor of issuing a "Call" to Mr. Ralph C. Link, and his Family, to fill the vacancy which now exists at Trinity Charge. The "Call" was issued, accepted, and Mr. Link will begin to fulfill the duties of Pastor in Trinity Charge after July 1, 1970.

The Annual Perry County Sunday School Convention will be held in the United Church of Christ at Blain, TODAY, June 14. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. No charge for registration.

Homewood Women's Auxiliary semi-annual meeting will be held Wednesday, June 17, at McDowell Home, located near Broadway at 11 York St., Hanover, Pa. Highway 116 from Gettysburg to Spring Grove passes by the Home. A formal meeting begins at 2:30 p.m. followed by a brief business meeting and social hour.

✓ Beginning Sunday, June 21, Fathers' Day, Herbert R. Robb, 12 N. Carlisle St., New Bloomfield - tel. 582-2177 will be typing the Church bulletins until further notice. Please send your NEWS to Herbert.

Perry Co. Sesquicentennial Committee is asking Ladies to join into "Belle Chapters". If you are interested please get in touch with:
Mrs. Robert Brinton, Duncannon
Mrs. Jack Wallace, New Bloomfield.

HOLY COMMUNION - June 28, 1970.

Divine Puzzles

Text: Matthew 6:33 (Jerusalem Bible) "Set your hearts on His kingdom first, and on His righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well."

This morning we are going to depart from the usual type of sermon. The first part of the sermon will be involved with a short biography of my life. My reason for this is twofold. Whenever a new pastor comes to a congregation, people usually want to know about him. They wonder where he comes from and all about him, so this should answer most questions in this respect. My second reason is to show what has molded my thinking and my beliefs and to give you an insight into just what it is that has brought me to be here as your pastor.

~~My~~ ^{LINK THE CHAIN} story begins on a day in April of 1929 in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. I was the last ^{FROM MY MOTHER} of five children. Four boys and one girl. I suppose we could say that I was raised in a lower ~~than~~ middle class family. My father never held a steady job from 1929 to 1936, so we knew what the depression was all about. I started Sunday school in my home church of St Paul's on Pittsburgh's north side at the age of ten. My mother is a very religious woman and my father we could say was semi religious, so I had a fairly good background of the Bible and the essence of religion. ^{FROM MY MOTHER} I had a deep interest in the Bible and of religion so much so, that I excelled as the best student of fifteen in my confirmation class. In those days we had what was called question Sunday and the confirmands had to answer questions put to them in front of their parents and members of the congregation. The pastor proposed that one member of the class be selected to represent the class and they selected me. But this idea fell through as the pastor thought it best that each boy or girl answer for themselves. This is one point in my life where I feel a little guidance from my pastor could have started me in the direction of the ministry much sooner. I believe very strongly that many young men are lost to the ministry because of an indifference from pastors toward young men who are religiously inclined. As a result I have resolved to try to help any young boys who perhaps show an inclination toward the ministry. But as a result of not knowing the proper subjects to take in school and not having the guidance or the motivation to further my education I graduated from school, just taking what was absolutely essential to get through, I went to work in a Catholic book store owned by one of our neighbors. I was drafted into the army and ^{WHILE THERE} had several experiences that had a very definite effect on my life. First of all when I graduated from basic training my training company was divided as to where we were sent. From the letter A to the letter J went to Alaska and from the letter K to the letter Z went to Korea. This was in 1951 when the Korean war was on. Because I had made high grades on my tests I had the option to go to leadership training school which was a six weeks course and so I elected to

do this. But before I did this I also knew that it automatically made the man eligible for a ticket straight to Korea with no side trips in between. ^{So IN ANY EVENT I KNEW I WOULD GO TO Korea} This was on my mind the entire six weeks and when I graduated from this course, we had several days in which to get all our gear in order and then we came home for two weeks, and then went to Seattle for the trip overseas. It was during these several days of getting things in order before coming home that the awareness of the gravity of the situation in Korea really struck me. I was worried about it because I knew there was a good possibility that I might not come back home again. It is the same situation many of you men here faced in World War II and what the young men are facing in Viet Nam today. It bothered me so much that I did not sleep too well and I thought about it constantly. The night before I came home on furlough I had a very fitful nights sleep until about three o'clock in the morning. I awakened somewhat startled as though someone had shaken me to arouse me. The barracks were completely quiet except for the heavy breathing of some men and the snoring of others. When I awoke I heard a voice as clear and as direct as I have ever heard. All the voice said was, "Everything is going to be alright." I called out but no one answered. All was quiet. The only thing I can say is that it was a part of God's plan. I do not know whether it was God or what it was and further more I frankly do not know the origin or the meaning of it. All I do know is that from then on my outlook became clearer and I never had the fear or the worry about my coming back alive again. My fears were allayed to the extent that I came home on furlough and married my sweetheart of three years and spent five wonderful days with her before leaving for Seattle.

It was also while I was in Korea that I knew my Father was watching over me and that he must have had a purpose for my life. On three separate occasions I narrowly missed being hit by bullets and shrapnel. It was these occasions that made me very keenly aware that I could have been killed just as easily as I was spared. It made me begin to look at life more closely and wonder about the purpose of it. I talked to several of the chaplains about the ministry but they were of no help. When I returned home I was released from the service and went in business with my brother. This lasted about a year and we parted. It was here that I decided to enter the ministry. I applied at the university of Pittsburgh and was accepted. I was to start in September. But at the end of August we learned Shirley was pregnant and we both felt it would be too much of a hardship for me to go to school and work and so we decided to let this pass. I worked as a grocery store clerk and then was employed by my brother in his ceramic tile business and then went to work as a stationary engineer in an office building in Pittsburgh. It was here that I had another experience that changed my life. At the time we had debts and illness and things were at their worst. Everything we seemed to do went wrong and we were both disgusted and frustrated. I was working 4 to 12 and this particular day when I was driving into Pittsburgh from Butler, my mind began to focus on the fact that I had to do something to

the things that loomed so large were not that important anymore and we found that God had more of a place in our lives. Shortly after this my brother gave up his business and I took it over and ran it as my own. While we were going through this frustrating time we were still members of a church. In fact we had joined the Presbyterian church in the neighborhood when we moved from Pittsburgh to Butler. So it was not that we were without religion. But shortly after this the Lay Ministry program came into being in our conference. In order to become a part of it we joined a United Church of Christ nearby and I began a course of study and service. During my course of study I became the Lay Minister of a two church charge very similar to this one. I gave my weekends to this ministry and some of my evenings and whatever time I could give. The entire family entered into this too I should add. It was when they had been able to get a pastor and my two years of service were coming to an end that I discovered that the ministry

was where I belonged and where I wanted to be. I think I only found myself while
 FOR IT ALMOST SEEMED AS THOUGH GOD HAD HIS HAND ON MY SHOULDER &
 serving God in this capacity. This then is the brief story of why I am here and
 KEPT POINTING ME TO THE MINISTRY
 what my feelings and my thinking are. If you will forgive my comparison with
 Martin Luther when I say that I feel as he must of felt when he stood before the
 Council of Worms and when asked to recant he said, "Here I stand, I can do no
 else, so help me God." EXAMPLE OF BEING LAID OFF & OTHER PIECES
 FITTING IN PLACE.

Now what I have been trying to say is not merely a relating of my life, but a demonstration to you that I firmly believe that God still works today in the lives of common ordinary people. When I read in the Bible where men heard the voice of God I believe it. Because I believe that He spoke to me once and He spoke in other ways too. When I read where a religious man such as David slipped and actually scraped bottom in his sins I can believe this, because I know that I was a steady church goer and yet my life was not what it should have been. And so I have been trying to point out that if we each look at our lives

we could compare them to a graph such as business does. we could see that they reached a certain peak and then ~~went~~^{PLP} into a valley and so on down the years. We hit highs and lows. At times we are close to the mark and at others we are far away. But as I look back I can see where each experience and each event in my life has sort of fit into a certain spot. It is something like a large jigsaw puzzle and God is working it. He has all the pieces and as we live the life He fits them all into place. I think sometimes that perhaps I may have entered the ministry as a much younger man, and yet I feel that at that point I was not mature enough. I believe that each day almost has been a part of God's purpose for me. I also believe that each one of us fits into this puzzle somewhere and somehow and we must keep on searching and keep on striving until we find our places in the divine puzzle. ~~I DO NOT BELIEVE WE JUST LIVE & DIE~~

Many times I have sung, whistled and repeated to myself the hymn we will close with this morning. ~~BUT EACH HAVE A DEFINITE PURPOSE.~~
~~1ST IN SCHOOL~~
 To me it has a special significance because I literally believe it to be true.

"He leadeth me O blessed thought, O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
 Whate'er I do, where'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
 Lord I would clasp Thy hand in mine, Nor ever murmur nor repine: Content whatever
 lot I see, since 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
 And when my task on earth is done, When by Thy grace the victory's won, E'en
 deaths cold wave I will not flee Since God through Jordan leadeth me.
 He leadeth me, He leadeth me; by His own hand He leadeth me: His faithful follow-
 er I would be, for by His hand he leadeth me."

May we each take the words of this beloved hymn to our hearts and may they be for each of us our hymn of life as we live each day. I believe that God is still leading us and will continue to do so if we let Him. But we must surrender our lives to Him so that He can work His will in our lives and ~~may He touch our hearts this day to use us as He wills.~~
~~FIT US AS PIECES IN HIS DIVINE PUZZLE.~~
 Jesus set the example for us and He taught us to "Set your hearts on His kingdom first, and on His righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well." This we must do first and then all things fall in place in this part of God's Divine puzzle.

Processional Hymn 8

Scripture Selected readings from Micah
Hymn 315

Sermon "What does the Lord Require of
You?"

Recessional Hymn 32

CONFIRMATION CLASS TO
START IN FALL. 12:00 P.
OLDER STUDENTS WELCOME.

Item Lamartine 11:00 10/5/69

*Processional Hymn 3
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
*Scripture Selected readings from Micah
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

CHOIR PRACTICE WED. 7:30

CONGREGATION MON. 7:30

CONFIRMATION NEXT SUNDAY 9:30
ENVELOPES ON BACK TABLE

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 313
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 34
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

July 12, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Processional Hymn # 8
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of sin - page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture
Selected Readings From Micah
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn # 315
Sermon: "What Does The Lord Require of You?"
*Offering
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lords Prayer
*Doxology
*Charge to the People
*Benediction and Choral Amen
*Recessional Hymn # 32
Postlude

* Congregation Standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar in Christ Church, Duncannon, are in memory of Erman Wolpert.

The "Win-A-Chum" Class will conduct worship services at Kinkora Heights Home on July 12th at 2:00 P.M.

CONFIRMATION CLASS IF
ELIGIBLE BOYS & GIRLS 12 OR
OVER

TUES. NITE 7:00 MENS
CLASS INVITES MISSIONARY GOLF.
& WIN A CHUM CLASS TO THE
RIVER.

DEATH OF FATHER OF
MR. WM. BORCHERTING LAST
WEEK.

What Does The Lord Require of You?

Micah 6; 8 "He has showed you , O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness , and to walk humbly with your God?"

To do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. This is all the Lord requires of man according to Micah. But the saying of it and the doing of it is two entirely different things. Micah left us a seemingly easy task, but the more one ponders it the more one becomes convinced of the almost impossibility of the task. We can perhaps do one or maybe even two fairly well. But to do all three at the same time is very nigh to impossible. If we look at each one we can very readily see why.

To do justice is the first command. We need to define what we mean by justice. Is this our own brand of justice? Is this the brand of justice administered in certain areas of our country? Or is this the justice that is the same for any man. Needless to say it is the justice that is meant for all men.

But man has a strange way of looking at things. For instance ~~if~~ let's say a murder is committed in another part of the country, A very vicious murder. The murderer is caught and he comes to trial. The verdict comes in and he is given life imprisonment. We ^{would} all most all say, "Well that's a fair verdict, after all it isn't right to put someone to death. An eye for an eye was the old way of doing things." But let that same crime be committed in our area and perhaps in a family we know, and what is our reaction? "Why he should be strung up without even having a trial."

This is our justice, only under different circumstances. My Dad always said that circumstances alter cases, and this is indeed true. This is one thing that is radically wrong with our country. We all look at what is happening but we see it with different eyes. To the person who is causing the rioting and the fire bombing, this is right. To the person standing on the sidelines it is wrong. To the person whose property is being destroyed, it is an out right crime. But justice must be equal. It must mean the same thing to each person whether he is white or

^{OR WHATEVER COLOR.}
black. It must be meted out the same regardless of whether he is rich or poor.

In this respect the old Mosaic law was perhaps a lot better than our laws. it

meant the same for anyone involved in a crime. This fellow did not get off or buy his way out, while this poor fellow was put to death. If it stated death by stoning it was the same penalty for all. But we try to get around this type of justice today. We are paying nine or ten old men to sit in Washington and change our laws to suit the needs of a few people. And then we wonder what is wrong. Until America learns to mete out the same justice to all it will be in trouble. And until you and I learn to show justice to each and every fellow human in exactly the same way, we cannot live up to the commandment of God as set forth by the prophet Micah.

The second point Micah brought out was to love kindness. This is not just a sudden show of emotion such as is displayed on special occasions when we are reminded of it. A good example of this is the weeks observed during the year. We have be kind to dumb animals week and we are all aware at least for a week of the stray cats and dogs and we try to show it. But then comes national newspaper week or something like this and we strive to be kind to the newsboy. Each week it is something different. Were it not for these reminders a goodly majority of us would fail quite miserably at remembering the basics of living.

we are for the most part all wrapped up in ourselves and our own little world.

EXAMPLE OF PREACHER & MULE

In order for anyone to break through into that little world they must first get our attention. The only way to do this is through some such means as the weeks of the year observing a certain thing. But kindness is more than this. It is the tenderness of helping someone who needs a helping hand. It is the love we can show through the giving of ourselves or our material possessions. It is the concern we have for someone who is in need of concern and yet who is not a relation of ours. In other words it means going out of our way to help. Going the extra mile that Jesus spoke of. Helping where no help is expected or looked for. This is true kindness. But the kindness Micah speaks of is the love of kindness. The people who are contemptible, miserable human beings, and who in turn make others lives miserable cannot possibly be kind and therefore cannot love kindness. Anyone who can be kind can love kindness in return, because we can recognize when kindness is being given or shown. But how can you love kindness when you have never shown it yourself? ~~But~~ ^{HOWEVER} This does not mean that we are to cease trying to be kind to those who are unlovable. It means that we should re-double our efforts to

reach them. To continue to be kind and patient and understanding with those who need us to try to help them. To love kindness, yes, to love it enough that we are willing to show it. This is what Micah must have had in mind when he wrote this.

The third point is another difficult one. To walk humbly with your God. How many people could ever possibly walk humbly with God? Not too many. Too many of us could walk proudly, or arrogantly, or snobbishly, but not humbly. To walk humbly with God means to admit that God is greater than we are. To show a humbleness in our lives and to have humility and reverence before this God. Too often the church members act as though they are better than their non churched neighbors. A teacher once asked her class why the Puritans came to America. "To worship in their own way," said Willie, "And make other people do the same." Isn't this the way too many Christians are? We are right and the other fellow is wrong. We find it hard to be humble or to humble ourselves. A great modern saint by the name of Toyohiko Kagawa found that he wanted to be humble. When he first came into contact with Christianity he felt fascinated by it. But one day he cried to the Lord, "O God make me like Christ." And so to be like Christ he went to the slums of Tokyo to live, and all the while he was suffering from Tuberculosis. He went to the last place a man in his condition should go to. He lived here in a six foot by six foot hut in a Tokyo slum. On his first night he was asked to share a bed with a man who has a contagious itch. This was a test of his faith. Would he go back on his desire to be like Christ? No he did not. He welcomed his bed fellow. A beggar asked him for his shirt and he gave it to him. The next day he was back and asked for his coat and trousers and he received them. Kagawa was left standing in a ragged old kimono. The slum dwellers of Tokyo laughed at him and called him names. But their laughter soon turned to respect. He would stand out in the weather no matter what the elements were and preach. "God is love" he would shout, "God is love. Where love is, there is God." He would often fall down exhausted and the rough men of the slums would carry him back to his hut. Kagawa once wrote, "God dwells among the lowliest of men. He sits in the dust heap among the prison convicts. He stands with the juvenile delinquents. He is there with the beggars. He is among the sick, he stands with the unemployed. Therefore let him who would meet God visit the prison cell before going to the

Temple. Before he goes to church let him visit the hospital. Before he reads his Bible let him help the beggar." Herein lies humility and a walking humbly with God. The world and many of us will assess the greatness of a person by how much he is worth, Or how many committees or lodges he may belong to, Or by the size of his bank account, But God measures greatness in man becoming humble and stooping to be of service to his fellow man. How are we serving? Are we arrogant and proud, or are we learning the lessons of humbleness and service to mankind?

Ask many people what the three greatest things in the world are and a large majority will tell you, fame, fortune, and to have a good time. Ask any one who is a true Christian and he will tell you, to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. This is the way our Master went and should we not walk this way too? He has shown us O man what is good; and what does the Lord require of us? We need to think this through, because there will come a day that he will require our soul, and when we are asked what we did with this life may God grant that we can answer, I did justice, I loved kindness and I walked humbly with my God. Let us pray.

Salem Lamartine 11:00 9/21/69

Processional Hymn 19
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Luke 7; 11-17
Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem 372
Announcements

PARKS COUNCIL M.W. 7:30 SALON
DILLY McLENDON, MR. GERALD WETTER,
MRS. MAUDE LOUGHER
DOLL & HIS PROGRAM, CALL HIM ETC.

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 264
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 228
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

Salem Lamartine 11:00 8/24/69

*Processional Hymn 44
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture I Kings 21
Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem 188
Announcements

VISITORS

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 483
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 275
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Trinity, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

July 19, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn # 23
*Solenn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture: 2 Kings 9; 1-10
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (Front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn # 273

Sermon "Ahab & Jezebel"
Offering
*Doxology (Trinity)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn # 290
*Benediction
*Threofold Amen
Postlude

*Congregation Standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be starting a confirmation class in the Fall and any boys or girls twelve years of age or older are eligible. Will the parents or any one knowing of eligible children please contact the Pastor or the Church School Superintendent of either church so the proper arrangements can be made.

1ST VESPER CHURCH OF GOD

7:30

REV. HLT IN CHARGE

A FOLLOW UP OF REHEARSING

Sunday, February 1, 1970

Mr. Ralph Link, Lay Minister

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude Pastorale Franck
Preamble Vierne
Lighting the Candles of Worship
*Hymn No. 8
*Invocation and Choral Introit
*Prayer of Confession - First Prayer, Page 4
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
*The Gloria Patri
Responsive Reading No. 67, Page 614
Hymn No. 273
The Scripture Lesson - I Kings 21
Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response
Offertory-Adagio from Organ Sonata in F Minor
*Doxology and Dedication of Tithes and Offerings
The Anthem
The Sermon Ihab and Jezebel
*Hymn No. 290
*Benediction and Choral Response
*Postlude-Toccata and Fugue in D Minor Bach

*Indicates that we stand

Guest Organist

Dane Skroupa

Greeters

Mr. and Mrs. Merion Sowers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon at 2:00 - Consistory Meeting

Tuesday evening at 7:30 - Naomi Class will meet in the Ladies' Parlor.

Wednesday evening at 6:30 - Junior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday evening at 7:15 - Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday evening at 7:30 - North Apollo Committee will meet in the home of Mrs. Elsie Coulter

Mr. John Coulter is convalescing in his home and wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and flowers sent him during his recent hospitalization.

Miss Georgianna Britten has spent the past week in Citizens General Hospital. Her check-up reports are good and she expects to be home the first of the week.

Mrs. Blanche Miller has been dismissed from Butler Memorial Hospital and is getting along nicely at her home, R. D. 1, Chicora, Pa.

Cindy Walker suffered facial injuries in an auto accident this week.

Don Davis has been home for the past week and will leave tomorrow for Fort Lewis, Washington. From there he expects to go to Viet Nam. Our prayers and best wishes go along with Don.

Rev. George Provance of the First Methodist Church is extending his hand in Christian fellowship by offering to minister to our people in any way during the time we have no minister. He will be glad to visit the sick if you just give him a call.

Record of-Giving

	Jan. 11	Given	Jan. 18
Needed-current budget			
238.27	201.50		206.42
Needed-Synodical budget			
68.15	47.35		52.55
Personage Fund	3.00		10.00

Ahab & Jezebel

Text: 1 Kings 21

The story of Ahab and Naboth's vineyard is one that has a few object lessons for all of us. It tells us of one man's desires and the wicked deeds accomplished through his wife. But let us look at some of the background of this story.

King Ahab was known as a builder. He had built cities and palaces and had a special attachment to his palace at Jezreel. This palace was unique in its splendor and beauty because it was the first palace inlaid with ivory. The ivory throne of Solomon was well known, but no where was there to be found an ivory palace. But with the lovely palace it needed to be set off by its lovely gardens. There was a vineyard adjoining the palace that Ahab did not own. So he went to the owner, Naboth, and offered him a better vineyard for it or the value of it in money. But Naboth refused because he said it was the inheritance of his ancestors. Now this was not the kind of treatment that Ahab was accustomed to. He was the king and everyone granted his wishes. So he went home and sulked and refused to eat. His wife Jezebel asked him what was wrong and he told her the refusal of Naboth to sell his vineyard. She told him that he was ^{indeed} a fine king of Israel that he could not get his wishes granted. She told him to eat and she would get the vineyard for him. So she sent a false letter to the elders signed and sealed illegally with the king's signature. She gave the elders false accusations against Naboth and even hired two professional false witnesses to speak against Naboth. Confronted with this evidence that Naboth had cursed God and the king, the elders had no choice but to take him outside the city and have him stoned to death. In fact it was the custom to kill the man's sons also. The proof of how the evil of Jezebel had spread throughout the land lies in the fact that something like this could be accomplished without the knowledge of the king. But the deed was done and Jezebel received a letter from the elders telling her that Naboth was dead. So Jezebel informed the king that Naboth was dead and he could now take possession of the vineyard. We are not told whether Ahab questioned the sudden death of Naboth or how it came about. We are just told that he arose to take

possession of the vineyard. Apparently he was accustomed to his wife pulling the strings and getting things done that he was unable to do. But Ahab had not given any thought to how the transaction came about. So he goes to the vineyard to look over his property. He goes from Samaria to Jezreel which is only a distance of seven miles we are told and there he meets Elijah. ~~Elijah~~ Ahab has come here to take over this property and he is able to see the fulfilment of his dreams but instead he comes face to face with reality. Elijah pronounces the judgement of God upon him for what he has done. He is ashamed and he puts on sackcloth and tries to atone for his crime, and we are told that because of this God said He would not bring this fate upon Ahab, but upon his son. If we read on in the 22nd chapter we see that Ahab is killed in battle and that when his chariot is brought into the camp that night, it is washed out. He had lain in the chariot for the biggest portion of the day and his blood had formed into a pool in the chariot. When the soldiers washed out the blood, the dogs came and licked up the blood and water, and this is what Elijah had prophesied would happen as a result of Ahab's deed.

~~This subject is so common in the Bible that it is not necessary to say more.~~ This story tells us many things. Among other things is the fact that the obsession of having what is not rightfully ours can lead to our complete destruction. Ahab had designs on his neighbors property. When he could not have it he sulked like a child who has not gotten his own way. Perhaps if he were left to his own thoughts and devices this story may not have had the conclusion it did. But through the evil cunning ^{OF HIS WIFE} wife he had, the property became his. We have this same situation in our world today. This story has its parallel practically every day somewhere in the world. Someone wants something that belongs to someone else and by hook or crook he takes it for his own. This comes as a result of looking at what we have no right to look at, and desiring it for ourselves. This is the sin ^{OF} covetousness. ^{ONE OF TEN COMM.} And strangely enough this sin is evident in some churches. One church will look at another and see that it has more members or more money than they and they are desirous of having that for themselves. As a general rule the more populous church or the more wealthy church is not taken over by the other, but by the very attitude of covetous thinking a wall or barrier is built up between the two and the spreading of the Gospel by love and fellowship and understanding is broken down. It does

neither of the churches any good. In fact it does ~~irreparable~~ irreparable harm. So we need to be on our guard lest this insidious cancer creeps into our churches and strangles and throttles the love, the understanding, the kindness and the good will that should be evident among all Christian brethren regardless of who they may be.

Then this story also has a parallel in the story of creation. If you recall it was Eve who tempted Adam into sinning. As a result of what Jezebel did, the word or name Jezebel is applied to any woman who is considered very evil or very wicked. We say she is a Jezebel. I looked the word Jezebel up in the dictionary and found that the definition is, "A wicked or bold woman. An evil cunning woman." Hence the deeds of some of the evil women of the Bible have given rise to the thinking that women were by ^{NATURE} ~~farther~~ a sinful lot. Which is silly because not all people can be judged by the misdeeds of a few. Some Biblical scholars have said that when Paul spoke of the thorn in his side, he was talking about his wife. But the real moral of this story is that we must not let the actions of others lead us astray and then blame it on them. One common complaint that parents have today is that their children want to do things and when they are refused the child replies, "Everyone else does it, or everyone else wears this type of clothing. We need to be individuals. We need to stand on our own two feet and to be sensible thinking individuals. Not followers of the mob or of the crowd, but individuals. The story is told of the little girl who was taking dancing lessons. The teacher noticed that her little pupil was not making the required steps and movements as ~~many~~ all of the other children were. She was dancing away oblivious to what she should have been doing. Miss Florence took her aside and asked, "Miss Watson don't you hear the piano?" The little girl replied, "Yes I hear it, but it doesn't bother me any." And this is how we must be. We must hear the music of the world, but we cannot let it bother us. We must become oblivious to those around us who would dissuade us from following the footsteps of the Master. We must close our minds and our ears to those who would lead us down the path of temptation and evil. In other words we must become individuals. We as Christians should stand out in the crowd. People should see us as Christians and not as Hypocrites. This involves courage and it involves a desire to be different. Jesus said that we must be in

the world, but we cannot be of the world. He knew that we have to live here. But He also knew that we do not have to conform to all of the patterns of the world. He knew that we would face the temptations of life each and every day. But He knew too that with the pattern and the guidelines He presented we can overcome the world. ~~I think I told the story of the gladiators before, but it bears repetition.~~ The gladiatorial games were held in Rome between two Roman warriors. When one of them had the other at his mercy he would look to the Emperor's box to see what the pleasure of the Emperor was. If he turned thumbs up the life of that man was spared. But if he turned thumbs down the man was slain by the other warrior. ~~TELEMACHUS CALLED HERMIT OF DESERT SOMETHING TOLD HIM GO TO ROME~~ One day there happened to be a man in attendance who had recently been converted to Christianity. He looked on with horror to see the life and death struggle between these men. The coliseum was filled to capacity. Slowly he made his way down to the floor of the arena. He stepped out on the field and stepped between the two combatants. They pushed him aside and he fell to the ground. The guards came out to seize him but he broke free. Time after time he stepped between the two doing battle and time after time he was thrown to the ground. All of this took place to the delight of the howling mob. They cheered and hooted to see this unexpected fight. Finally the two warriors stood back and there between ^{THEM} on the ground lay the motionless, lifeless body of the one man who had the courage to stand out against this evil. ~~Slowly the people~~ A hush fell over the crowd that just a few short moments ago was demanding death for one of the fighters. Slowly they began to file from the arena. From that day on no more gladiatorial contests were held.

Now this is an extreme example to be sure. You and I may never be called upon to stop something such as this. But you and I are called upon almost every day of our lives to make a stand for good or for evil. Will we go the way of the crowd, as Ahab did? Or will we go the way of Christ? Let us pray.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

July 26, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude

*Hymn # 31

*Solemn Declaration

*Call to Worship

*Confession of Sin (page 4, 1st prayer)

*Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture, Exodus 3: 1-15

*Gloria Patri

*Statement of Faith (Front of hymnal)

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Hymn # 87

Sermon "Pioneers as of Old" Text; Exodus 3:11

Offering

*Doxology (Trinity Church)

*Offering Response (Christ Church)

*Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn # 292

*Benediction

*Throfold Amen

Postlude

* Congregation Standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commencing next Sunday, August 2nd, the time schedule of Church and Sunday School will change to:

Christ Church, Duncannon,
Church Service 9:00 A.M.
Sunday School 10:00 A.M.

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Church Service 10:30 A.M.

Confirmation class will be started in the fall. Any boys or girls twelve years of age or older are eligible. Will the parents or any one knowing of eligible children please contact the Pastor or the Church School Superintendent of either church so the proper arrangements can be made.

OTHER VISITORS

MR & MRS. KERR & FAMILY WELCOME

MR. KERR WILL BE SPEAKER IN CHURCH

SCHOOL

MITE SOCIETY THANKS

Mrs. L. C. K. R. & Mrs. Miller

M. VED IN ETC.

Mrs. KITTEN

Pioneers As Of Old

Text: Exodus 3: 11 "I Shall be with you."

Were we to be asked the question, "Who would you say was the earliest pioneer in history?", I am sure that we would have some difficulty in coming up with an answer. During this past week I have pondered this mornings Scripture and I began to see Moses in a new light. I always knew that he was a great leader. That he must have been a cut above the ordinary man to accomplish what he did. But never did I think of him in terms of being a pioneer. But wasn't he just this? Wasn't he a forerunner of Columbus, Daniel Boone, Lewis and Clark and all the others we think of as pioneers? He must be placed in this category since what he did was every bit as adventuresome as those we acclaim as pioneers.

In our scripture we read how Moses was chosen by God. He was a simple shepherd when God summoned him. Being the humble man he was, he asked God, "Who am I to go to Pharoah and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" Here again we encounter a man of humility, a man who feels inadequate in the face of the task God has set before him. A man who is not ashamed to ask questions because he feels he is not qualified. When we look at the enormous task it must have been to take these thousands of people across the wilderness to the promised land, it is enough to make even the most stout hearted wince. Think of the problems that would arise during such a trek. Think of the problems involved moving a group in our much more sophisticated society today. We know that food and water are needed. We know that shelter for the night is required. And when a group starts to move out some begin to straggle and lag behind, which is a constant bother and worry to those in charge. Those of you who were in the service and in the Army in particular, can recall what happened when a long hike took place. Some fellows developed blisters after a very short time, while many others just lagged behind. Moses problems must have been multiplied many times over due to the fact that entire families were involved. This meant extra provisions had to be made for the women and children. And then think of the problems involved when Moses made what was considered as an unpopular move. No matter what he did ~~there~~ it was almost a certainty that someone would disagree. In a group as large

as this must have been it is impossible to please everyone. In any large group there are those who disagree with the existing authorities, and who claim that they could do a better job of leading. For the most part these would be leaders are just talk, but they usually cause enough of a stir to create dissention in the group. But time after time Moses was equal to the occasion and he overcame the threats to his leadership, proving each time the wisdom of God in His selection of Moses as his leader.

Then think of the route that they traveled to the promised land. The exact route is not known, but what is not too hard to figure out is that it must have been a long, hard and tough trek, since it took 40 years.

The high point of the entire journey was at the beginning when God chose Moses. And when Moses asked God who am I to go to Pharoah?, God gave him the total answer needed, "I shall be with you." And indeed He was with them throughout all of their wanderings. He watched over them constantly and even in their times of unGodliness, He was with them.

But the thing that really stands out in this narrative as in all of the narratives of the Bible is the fact that God repeatedly chose men and women who were very common. He didn't select kings or rulers to lead, He always chose people who were on the common plane. Abraham was chosen before Moses, then came David, Saul Solomon, Samuel, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, Saul of Tarsus, the twelve disciples, and all of the men down through history who have been the leaders have almost all without exception been very common people. This should prove to us that God doesn't care for formality. That He doesn't look to position or power, to choose His own. He selects those who are right with Him.

Did you ever think that perhaps you and I are pioneers in today's world? I believe we are, since we are living in a world that is not largely Christian. Therefore to be a Christian is to be something unique. To be something out of the ordinary. This should make us proud, but it should also make us aware of what a pioneer is and what a pioneer does. As a modern pioneer we should be looking for new worlds to conquer. New ground to be covered, and new horizens strived for. How we go about this is really immaterial. What does matter is the

fact that we be pressing onward and leading the way. This is the work of a Christian pioneer. To be leaders of others. Now many of you may be thinking,

"Well how can I be a pioneer when all I do is come to church and sit in my pew each Sunday, content to merely worship God?" The answer is that although we may feel insignificant, we don't need to be insignificant. We can be working just as hard as anyone who is a Sunday school teacher and a member of the Consistory, or a member of the choir. Now don't get me wrong that we do not need these people. Just the reverse is true, we need a lot more of them. But sometimes people who are unable to serve in any other capacity feel a sense of shame or guilt if the preacher happens to mention serving in the Church. The poet John Milton wrote, "They also serve who only stand and wait." Perhaps we should change this to read "They also serve who only sit and wait." But this does not mean to merely be content to just continue sitting and waiting. It implies a certain amount of action is needed too. We all have opportunities to pioneer for God. How often do we meet people who are in need of a boost or a lift that we can give? How many people do we meet who are unchurched and could use some spiritual food in their lives? How many people do we work with who are in need of any help we can give to them? Too often church people refrain from commenting about anything spiritual to anyone for fear of being branded as a kook. Some of the most respected men in history have been very religious and because of how they lived and acted others tried to pattern ^{THEMSELVES} after them. It takes more courage to be sure to try to tell someone of Jesus, but once you have made the first move toward doing this, it becomes easier each time. Make it a point this week to talk to one of your neighbors who doesn't go to church and invite him or her to join you next Sunday. Make it a point this week to tell someone of your God, when you encounter someone in need of spiritual food. Perhaps during your working hours this week you may have the opportunity to speak a word of encouragement to one of your fellow workers, and to tell him of the solace you find for your troubled life in church attendance. This is what we should all be doing.

We sing the old hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before." We march in our civilian parades

4.

carrying the banner of our nation in front. We can prepare ourselves for war and arm ourselves, but privately as individuals we do not arm ourselves for the battle of life. We should fortify ourselves with some good oldtime Bible reading, and some good old time meditation in trying to seek God's will in our lives. ^{8 / INSTEAD OF TAKING A NAP TOOK} When was the last time we sat in the big old easy chair at home, ~~with~~ the family Bible in our laps and read some of it and pondered its meaning to us? I mean really sat down to read and not to take a snooze. This is what we need more of in our nation today. This is what we must and should be doing to become pioneers for God in our troubled world. If we have been lax in this or remiss, then we need to start today and cultivate this habit. And we also need to get the nerve to tell others of God and what He can do for man if ~~we~~ will but let Him come into his life. Let us strive to live this way and to learn more of God's way in our lives, carrying the cross of Jesus ever before ~~our~~ us as we journey into the wilderness of this world. And let us ever remember that God spoke to Moses way back centuries ago and He is still speaking to man today. And what He is saying is still the same, "I shall be with you." Let us pray.

St. John Emlenton 11:00 6/8/69

*Processional Hymn 446
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Sel. 48 Pg. 596
In 447
Scripture Exodus 3: 1-15
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

New Recessional. Please comment.

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn 448
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Hymn 453 (Recessional on last verse)
Silent Prayer (Seated while acolyte
extinguishes candles)
*Litlude

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

August 2, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude

*Hymn # 1

*Solemn Declaration

*Call to Worship

*Confession of Sin (page 4, 1st prayer)

& Kyrie

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture, Hebrews 11: 1-13

*Gloria Patri

*Statement of Faith (Front of hymnal)

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

Hymn # 221

Sermon "Faith Our Hope" Text; Hebrews 11:1

Offering

*Doxology (Trinity Church)

*Offering Response (Christ Church)

*Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn # 282

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

Postlude

*Congregation Standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Link and his family have completed their move and are now living at 16 S. Carlisle Street New Bloomfield. The telephone number is 582-4798. If anyone has any problems or matters to be discussed with Pastor Link he will welcome your visit or a telephone call.

TITWILLIE, PA.
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joseph F. Krabill, Pastor
Organists
Peggy Nilson and Barbara Wescoat

Prelude
*Solemn Declaration
*Introit
*Call to Confession
Confession of Sin
Silent Confession
Kyrie
Assurance of Pardon
Hymn

Collect
The Holy Scriptures:
Gloria Patri

*Statement of Faith
Pastoral Prayer and Prayer Response
The Offering
Offertory
*Doxology

*Hymn
Meditation
Sermon
*Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
*Benediction and Congregational Response
*Recessional Hymn
Postlude

END OF WORSHIP - BEGINNING OF SERVICE

Page 4

Sunday, July 9
Mr. Lee Neuhaus, Intern Student Pastor at St. Paul's Church Butler, will occupy our pulpit this morning. We welcome Lee and his wife Kathy. It is indeed good to have them with us again.

Hymns: 10, 297, 287

Sunday, July 16th
Mr. Ralph Link, who is a candidate for the Lay Ministry and who makes his home in Butler will bring us the morning message. We extend a warm welcome to both Mr. and Mrs. Link.

Hymns: 31, 278, 63

Sunday, July 23
Mr. William Bowen, who we all know, will bring us the message this morning. Bill is a candidate for the Lay Ministry and has involved himself in an extensive study of the problems of drug addiction. Bill will share with us some concerns and some insights he has gained.

Hymns: 7, 387, 385

While the Pastor is out of town for vacation and for Camp, the president of the congregation, Mr. Ralph Osborn will secure a minister in the community or if necessary notify the Pastor.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS JULY 31st. All Children age 4 - 12 are invited to attend. The Bible School will be conducted at the First Methodist Church. Donations of cookies are needed - Contact Jean Burns.

CHURCH PICNIC - AUGUST 9th

ST. PAUL'S

Olivet Parish Butler, Pa.
~~St. John's Congregation - Butler Township~~
 St. Paul's Congregation - Connoquenessing
 August 13, 1967

Study Hour St. Pl's 10:45 ~~St. John's 9:55~~
 Worship St. Pl's 9:45 ~~St. John's 11:00~~

* * * * *
 Prelude ENTER CHANCEL - GO TO LECTERN SIDE

ANNOUNCE HYMN Christ Is Made 324
 *Procession The Sure Foundation

*Call to Worship *Invocation

Unison Reading of Scripture
 Selection 49, Page 597

(ANNOUNCE) Hymn Strong Son Of God, Immortal Love 225

The Holy Scripture Lessons
 Guest Leader and Speaker Chooses

HEBREWS 11:1 TO 16
 *Gloria Patri (493) *The Apostles' Creed

Responsive Prayer, 17. Light and Guidance,
 Page 545: the Pastoral Prayer Following

The Offering Prayer of Dedication
 Organ Offertory

(ANNOUNCE) AND GO TO PULPIT SIDE
 Hymn Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know? 239

Sermon FAITH - OUR HOPE
 Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance
 of things hoped for,
 the evidence of things not seen."

Prayer and Our Lord's Prayer

(ANNOUNCE) *Procession I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say 480

*Benediction Quiet Meditation Threefold Amen
 * * * * *

* BECKON CONGREGATION TO STAND

Our Congregations today extend the hearty welcome to Mr. Ralph C. Link as he comes here to lead us for the Worship Services. Brother Link and his Family live in the Kenfrew - Nixon Community. He is a Student in the Lay Ministry School of Penn West Conference. The Link Family is active in St. Paul's Congregation of Butler.

The Monthly Christian Endeavor Hymn-Sing will take place today at 2:30 p.m. in the West Liberty United Presbyterian Church.

Butler Area Laymen and their Wives will meet at Grace Reformed Church in Harmony Thursday evening. The Fellowship Dinner will be served at 6:30.

St. John's Sunday School and Congregation has improved and renovated the Basement Class Rooms. Everyone is invited to take a personal inspection tour. Consistory notes that continued support of the Building Fund with our gifts is necessary.

St. John's Consistory also notes its action renewing the support of Donald L. Young, preparing for the Christian Ministry at Bangor Seminary, Bangor, Maine. The grant is to be the same as for the year now ending, one hundred dollars a month.

Mrs. Marie Young and Cynthia were back home for a visit during last week, worshipping with the home congregation last Sunday. Student Don was busy preaching to congregations in the adopted community.

Rev. Dickey and the Family are visiting the home congregation and kinfolk at Berlin, Pa. today.

Oh come, let us sing unto the Lord; Let us
make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal-
vation. Let us come before His presence with
thanksgiving; Let us make a joyful noise with
Psalms.

Prelude ENTER CHANCEL - GO TO WESTERN PIPE
ANNOUNCE HYMN
*Procession Christ Is Made 324
The Sure Foundation
*Call to Worship *Invocation
Unison Reading of Scripture
Selection 49, Page 597
(ANNOUNCE)
Hymn Strong Son Of God, Immortal Love 225
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Responsive Prayer, 17. Light and Guidance,
Page 545: the Pastoral Prayer Following
The Offering Prayer of Dedication
Organ Offertory
(ANNOUNCE) AND GO TO PULPIT SIDE
Hymn Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know? 239
Sermon FAITH - OUR HOPE
Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance
of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen."
Prayer and Our Lord's Prayer
(ANNOUNCE)
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today.

Faith Our Hope

Text; Hebrews 11:1.

~~To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.~~ **AND WHAT IS FAITH? FAITH GIVES SUBSTANCE TO OUR HOPES AND MAKES US CERTAIN OF REALITIES WE DO NOT SEE.**

I suppose most of you have noted by now that the title given for today's sermon is, "Faith our Hope." Hence most of us would surmise that faith will be the main subject discussed. Which is true. However I think we must also define hope as well in order to clarify the meaning of faith. Faith is defined in Webster's dictionary as, unquestioning belief in God or religion, complete trust, confidence or reliance. Hope is defined as a feeling that what is wanted will happen. Desire accompanied by anticipation or expectation. So taking these two definitions I think we can safely say that faith and hope go hand in hand. We have all probably heard the remark that we must have faith and hope that everything will turn out all right, or something similar to this using the words faith and hope together. I don't think we can separate one from the other. If we have faith we have hope and if we have hope we have faith. The first verse of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, which is our text uses both of these words also. As it is recorded in the New Testament in Today's English we read, "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see." The subject of faith to be dealt with fully would in all probability require several sermons because of the many facets involved. However we shall be concerned with the three facets which I feel and believe are the most important and necessary for our Christian life. Why we need faith? How do we get faith? How do we keep this faith?

As we look around us in our present day world we are confronted by many types of unnerving situations. We pick up the newspaper and we read

2.

headline about war and unrest in many different parts of the world. We tune in the news on television and we see scenes of police and mobs clashing throughout many parts of our country. We see and hear of marchers protesting everything from Viet Nam to poor housing. We read and hear of robbery, murder, violence and more violence. We are constantly being bombarded from all sides with these things every day of our lives. Is it any wonder that mental illness is increasing at an alarming rate. Some peoples minds and nervous systems simply cannot take this abuse, and unfortunately it affects their minds as a result. Other people who do not have a mental or nervous collapse take another way out and end it all with a pill or a gun and commit suicide. This brings us to the people who are left, the ones continuing to struggle ^{THRU} this life which is ^{so} often referred to as a rat race. What can we do to combat all these unnerving things we face daily? The answer is that we need faith. Now this is a pretty large order to be sure. But what other alternative is left? Can we just sit back and ignore the world? Can we ignore the events going on around us? Can we just hope that all of these things will ~~just~~ go away? Or can we as individuals change many or any of these events? About the only thing we can do is to live our daily life with faith that all will be well eventually. In Paul's letter to the Roman's there is a verse that says this very thing. Quote "WE know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him." Unquote.

EXAMPLE OF BLIND FAITH AS DISCUSSED THIS PAST WEEK
We need to believe this more so today than at any other time in the past.

There is a book in my library at home entitled, "Faith of Our Fighters" by Chaplain Elwood Nance. In it are true stories of the men and women who fought in World War II, and the statements of faith each one has made. One of the most poignant and perhaps touching stories is a letter written by Aviation Cadet Robert A Keyworth. At the time this letter was written this fellow's first child was due to be born and he entitled his letter A Soldiers letter to his unborn son. In it he describes his part in this war, his feelings and what life means to him. But the one part of the letter that stands out is the following quote.

3.

"What, then sustains me? Only my faith, for it has created between those I love and myself a tremendous bond, possessed of such strength nothing can alter or weaken it. In this I find all my strength, all my courage, all my hope." Unquote. This statement of faith speaks most eloquently why we need faith.

Faith to many Christians is unfortunately just a word. It means nothing to many of them because they either feel or have the mistaken impression that it is a certain something which only some chosen few have. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact we all must or should have faith working in our lives. Faith should be one of the first things we attain upon becoming an active Christian. But to answer the question how do we get faith is not a simple task. Because some people get it through a religious experience of some sort, while others simply make the test and find it works and continue to use it. Still others get it in various other ways. This then is what confuses many people. They begin to feel that there is a set pattern for acquiring faith. Many feel that since they do not know the formula they may as well forget it and as a result they miss out on one of the most rewarding Christian experiences a person could have. Now how we get it is not that important. What is important is that we get it. One way that has proved most successful for many people is the way of placing every care and every problem in God's hands and then relying on Him to take care of it. If we have never tried this before it is rather difficult to do the first time. Because the natural human reaction is to try and solve all our problems and troubles ourselves. But for those of us here today who have never experienced real faith try this. The next time we have a problem of some kind no matter how large or how small, pray to God about it and ask Him to take care of it or show you what to do about it. Then do nothing. That's right, do nothing about it until you feel that you

are being motivated to do something about it. You may get a thought or idea that will be completely foreign to what you had thought was the solution. This will be your answer. This is God speaking to you. Then the thing to do is to take whatever action is necessary to follow these directions. I know this may sound nutty and there are those who will say that perhaps you have lost some of your marbles or are going a little balmy. But this is how faith works and it can work for all of us if we give it a chance. This is the formula that works for me, and I have tried and tested it many, many times. I also know that this is the way that many other people of my acquaintance have faith working in their lives. So if we each give it a try I'm sure it will continue to work everytime we put it to the test. The nice thing about faith is the more we use it the easier it becomes for us to have it. Another thing about it is that it is contagious. Some of our friends who do not have ^{it} will begin to ask how we can be so sure that everything is going to work out all right. Then when we explain it and how we do it they will probably want to try it too. So let's all give it a good try and maybe ~~you~~ ^{WE} can infect ~~the world~~ and I'll do my best to infect Butler.

OUR INDIVIDUAL AREAS WHERE WE LIVE

But The hardest part is yet before us. This is how to keep faith. Why should this be so difficult? Simply because the first time that we feel that God has not answered our problem adequately is the time we will begin to resort to our own means and solutions again. But this is the time we should become more determined to do it with faith. And if we can pass this hurdle then faith is what we will have all the time. One of the main points in keeping this faith is to keep in touch with it's source, and that is by praying constantly to God. We must keep flexing our faith muscles so they don't become flabby and useless. It's sort of like taking a walk in the nice warm golden autumn sunshine. As long as we are out in the sun it feels good and it is warm. But once we step into the shadows it becomes cool because we are away from the source of the heat.

NEED

So we must learn the habit of praying often to God. Not just when we ^{NEED} help or not just when we are in trouble. But every chance we get or happen to think of it, pray. If we do this, praying will become more or less a habit and our faith will be active because of it. Then we must also learn to use our Bibles more often. The Bible is where we can bolster our faith with its comforting words and wonderful stories of faith. The next time your faith begins to wear a little thin read the story of Abraham and his son Isaac. Here was a real act of faith. But there are many other stories of faith to be found in the Bible and each one will help us to strengthen our own faith. If we increase our knowledge of faith we can retain it in our lives. We must know something about it or we will be like the fellow in ~~this~~ ^{THE} story I ~~heard sometime ago.~~ ~~In this small congregation there was a man who~~ slept during the sermon every Sunday. So the minister decided he was going to do something about it. The very next Sunday after the man was sleeping soundly, the minister asked all those in the congregation who wanted to go to heaven to stand up. Naturally they all stood up except the sleeping man. After they were all seated he asked all those who wanted to go to hell to stand up. At the words stand up he raised his voice to a shout. The man awoke and all he heard was stand up so he stood. He looked around and saw he was the only one standing so he said, I don't know what we're voting for Reverend but it looks like you and I are the only ones in favor of it. So you see we must add to our knowledge of faith or we too will not know where we are going. Then we must try to follow in the footsteps of Christ. His faith was unshakable even in the face of death. Now some of you may be thinking Christ really didn't have faith because He was the Son of God and was therefore divine. This is true, but He had a physical body just like you and I. We know this because if he were purely spiritual he would not have had need for food and drink and sleep. Yet we read in scripture he ate and drank and slept. He went through many ordinary things such as you and I go through. He probably got tired from too much walking, and

He probably became annoyed when people bothered Him too much. In many respects His life parallels our looking at it from strictly a human standpoint. However there is one thing we as humans are prone to forget. This is the sacrifice Christ made for us. Here is the most supreme test of faith that could possibly be made by anyone. He did it not because He deserved it or even really wanted to do it. But because His sacrifice would save mankind and this was His reason for accepting such a fate.

So the next time our faith becomes a little shaky we should look to the cross and think of His faith and what it meant to Him. If we look through the Gospels at the sayings of Jesus we see that He ~~said~~ ^{SPOKE} of faith many times.

It was something that was very real to Him. He knew that in order for us to go through life we need something to cling to and to have hope for.

This is faith. Without it we are lost and we struggle needlessly. With faith we can face each tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrow, confident in the fact that God through the grace of Jesus Christ is leading us. There is a lovely poem written by Helen Steiner Rice entitled, "Climb Til Your Dream Comes True." It sums up very nicely what I have been trying to say this morning about faith. Page 54. Poem. Let us pray, Prayer & Lord's prayer.

Salem Lighthouse 9:30 8/17/69

*Processional Hymn 20
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Mark 7: 1-13
Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem 65
Announcements

VISITORS

BIBLE STUDY MON 8:00

LADIES AID THURS 7:30

CHURCH PRACTICE WED. 8:00

Offering, Response, Prayer

Hymn 476

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 253

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

St. John Emileton 11:00 8/17/69

*Processional Hymn 40
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Sel 56 Pg 603
Hymn 17
Scripture Mark :7: 1-13
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Offering, Prayer

*Hymn 225

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 467

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

August 9, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn 29
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin (page 4, 1st. prayer)
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture, Mark 7: 1-13
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 205
Sermon "Service or Lip Service?"
Mark 7; vs. 7

Offering
*Doxology (Trinity Church)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 355
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

*Congregation Standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Link and his Family have completed their move and are now living at 16 S. Carlisle St., New Bloomfield. Their telephone number is 582-4798. If anyone has any problems or matters to discuss with Pastor Link he will welcome your visit or a telephone call.

MEN BREAKFAST AUG 23RD
INVITE NEW BLOOMFIELD MEN
NO CHURCH DUNCANNON.
ANY MAN WISHING TO ATTEND GIVE
NAME TO RUSSELL KINER.

Service Or Lip Service?

Text: Mark 7; 7

"This people honors me only with lip service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations."

Several years ago in California one bright sunny morning a wrecking crew pulled up in front of ~~this church~~^A and in a very short time were busily engaged in tearing it down. A man appeared on the scene in an hour or so and very frantically asked to see the foreman. When he located him he told him to stop at once, that he was the pastor of this church and there had been some mistake. The foreman pulled an order form out of his pocket and showed it to the minister. He said, "Now don't that say to start demolishing the Church of God Mac?" The minister replied, "Yes it does, but the Church of God is across the street. This happens to be the Church Of Christ." Strange as it may seem this is a true story. At the point is that all too often we of a different denomination than some of our friends and neighbors can tear down their church but not our own. For all of the problems and ills that have beset us in our nation particularly, the hue and cry from a large majority of people has been, "Whats the matter with the church? Why don't they do something?" Or, "What have they been doing all of this time?" The strangest part about all of this is the fact that the cry has been led by of all people, Mr. & Mrs. John Q. Pewsitter. Yes, thats right the average church member. But we don't ask it of ourselves, we ask it of the other churches.

In order to place this in it's proper perspective, we need to first define the word "Church". What is it? What makes it a Church? And what is its duty or goals?

If we were to ask the question, what is the Church, I am sure we would get some very diversified answers. Some people would say, "Its a building." Others would say its like a club that certain people join and others do not. And still others would give answers like its a clique, or its a universal venture of many people. Now all of these can and are partially true. But the church for the first point is much, much more than a building. The building is only the place

where the faithful meet to worship. To be completely correct we need to emphasize the fact that when we speak of, "The Church", ^{QUOTATION MARKS} we cannot think only in terms of a building, such as this or the other ~~buildings~~ buildings we know of as churches. We need to think of men and women throughout the world joining and banding together as followers of Jesus Christ. A good example of a similar word or phrase is, "The Federal government." We can pick up the ^{NEWS} paper almost any day, and almost any paper and read where some councilman or commissioner will have made the statement, "We should get this project moving while the federal funds are still available. Or federal funds will pay for so much of a percentage of this project. And what is the federal government? It is you and I isn't it? But you see it all sounds so important and less personal when we say, "The federal government." So it is with "The Church." What is, "The Church"? It is you and I. Its not those other denominations, it is us. You and I who are the ones who sit in church Sunday after Sunday. When we bring it down to the personal level, this sort of has the tendency to make us squirm because then we realize when we have been asking what is wrong with the church, or why hasn't the church been doing something about the mess around us, we realize that we are talking about ourselves. We are the ones who have been remiss in many areas. We are the ones who have been lackadaisical about our commitment. When we place it in this ^{light} ~~perspective~~ we begin to see that we can't push it off on those ~~some~~ Lutherans, or those Methodists, or the United Church of Christ. Because it all boils down to me, personally and every other church member like me. Its like the story I once heard a minister tell of how people accept a sermon. The minister starts out by throwing a pitchfork toward the first pew, and the people there pass it on to the next pew because it was not meant for them, or it hit Mr So and So, I hope he is awake to hear it, or Mrs. Such and such should have been here to hear this it fits her to a Tee. And this goes on and on until the people in the last pew throw the pitchforks over their shoulders and no body takes the message as meaning him. But it fits the other fellow. So when we ask what is the church we must be able to say, it is me. I am the church. And in this way we can accept the blame for ~~the inactivity of the church~~ whatever it is the church is guilty of not doing in our present time.

What makes a Church a Church? Is it the structure? Is it the windows? Is it the type of wood used for the pews, the altar and the chancel area? ^{any of} it isn't these things. What really makes a Church a Church is what takes place within it's walls. What it shows forth in the community is what makes a church ~~be~~ a church for real. The most wonderful structure in the world is only a building made of wood, stone, brick and other materials unless the people make it come alive. A church must be vital, it must have life. This is only possible when its members are willing to work and to serve. ~~The spirit of~~ An awareness of the presence of God helps to make a church vital also. A certain mother was trying to persuade her 8 year old son to go with her to church. "You go to the movies once a week, and you enjoy several hours entertainment, and you go down to Billy's house and you have a nice time. Now, don't you think it is only right that once a week you should go with me to God's house for just an hour?" The boy thought it over for a few minutes and then he said, "Well gee Mom. What would you think, if you were invited somewhere and everytime you went, the fellow was never there?" Have you ever been a church where you did not feel the presence of God? I have and it is like trying to worship in a mausoleum. Then there are other churches where you feel so at ease and at peace. A woman ^{VISITOR FROM OUT OF STATE} remarked to me last Sunday after church, that she liked to visit our Church, ~~and she is from out of state.~~ She said that she liked to visit our church because she felt like she had been in church. Now it isn't the church itself and it isn't anything material. What it is, is the warmth that loving people emit. The feeling of Christian fellowship with others. This is what makes the presence of God felt in any church. Amos said that God ~~has~~ said, "I hate and despise your feasts, I take no pleasure in your solemn festivals." In other words God does not want all of our ceremonies and man made rituals. What He wants is us. Our love, our devotion, and our response to Him. This is what makes a church.

What are the goals and duties of the church? To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all that have not heard it, or to those who are not now members of the Christian fellowship. This may mean that we must go to where these people are, ^{IT MAY MEAN THAT WE MUST GO} ~~and we must go to where these people are~~ to prison. Or ^{WE MAY HAVE TO GO} ~~to some of the dives where~~ some of these people are found. It may mean that we must show love to someone who

may seem unlovable. But this is what Jesus told us to do, "To make disciples of all nations." This means all people. Not just some, or those we may feel are fit for the kingdom. But all people. I was reading an article about Evangelism recently. The author pointed out that there has been a decline in the emphasis on Evangelism. He also pointed out that this is the duty of each and every church and each and every church member. Jesus Himself let it be known that we are not to merely ~~be~~ give lip service to God, but to render active service as well. As members of the church of Jesus Christ we cannot afford to sit back and do nothing. In these very hectic and critical times the church is being judged by it's activity or lack of it. We should be setting the example of Christianity wherever we are. This means not only in our giving for spreading the Gospel through mission fields, but the giving of ourselves and the rendering of our service right here in this area and this community. This is what makes the Church. "Go labor on; spend and be spent, thy joy to do the Father's will; it is the way the Master went; should not the servant tread it still? Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray, be wise the ring soulf to win; go forth into the world's highway, compel the wanderer to come in." These are the words from one of our better known hymns. ~~That~~ The hymn writer is telling us ~~in~~ in much better phraseology than I could say, to give of ourselves. To be of actual service and not lip service. May each of us today be renewed in soul body and spirit, that we may give all that we possibly can in the service of our Lord. Let us Pray.

St. John Emlenton 10/12/69 11:00

*Processional Hymn
Choral Call to Worship
Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Sel 77 Pg. 624
Hymn
Scripture Luke 7: 1-17
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Offering, Prayer
Hymn
Sermon
Prayer & Lord'S Prayer
*Hymn
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

August 16, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn # 12
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin - page 4, 1st prayer
*Kyrrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Luke 7:1-17
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (Front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn # 63

Sermon "The Age of Miracles"
Text Luke 7:14-15

Offering
*Doxology (Trinity)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer * Lord's Prayer # 472
*Hymn
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

* Congregation Standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Men's Breakfast" - An invitation has been extended to the men of Trinity Church, from the men of Christ Church to attend their annual "Men's Breakfast" on August 23rd, Sunday, 8:00 A.M. The breakfast will be held at Paul Hepfer's cottage along the Juniata River. If anyone needs directions please telephone Mr. Hepfer at 834-4646.

Once again we would like to remind you that Pastor Link and his family are living at 16 S. Carlisle Street, New Bloomfield (alongside the Draft Board). If anyone has any problems or matters to discuss with Pastor Link he will welcome your visit or a telephone call, phone 582-4798.

Fall Confirmation Class - It is not too late to enroll in the Fall Confirmation Class. If you are interesting in enrolling or have information about someone who would like to sign up please contact Pastor Link.

Anyone having announcements for the bulletins please contact either Pastor Link or Herbert Robb (582-2177).

The Age of Miracles

Text; Luke 7; 14 & 15.

We have all probably heard the remark, "The age of Miracles is past," or, "It will take a miracle to bring this or that about." Each of these remarks shows an interest in miracles. Belief is stated on one hand and disbelief on the other. Which leads us to ask just what constitutes a miracle? Generally it is an event or occurrence that is out of the ordinary. Something not necessarily supernatural, but bordering on the unusual. In the ancient world of Jesus time people were prone to believe in supernatural events. Miracles to them were very decidedly real. Today we want to prove every thing scientifically and if this cannot be done then it did not happen. We need not get involved in a controversy over the belief or disbelief of miracles, what we need to do is to look at the so called miracles of the past and compare them with the events that could be termed miracles today and we can ^{then} ^{own} draw our conclusions.

One basic ingredient involved in many of the miracles of Jesus was prayer. Before he would perform the feat he prayed. Therefore prayer must be considered as an important ingredient of miracles. I think that most of us have seen the little slogan that states, "The impossible we can do immediately, but miracles will take a little longer." This is meant of course as a ~~little~~ joke. Yet in a sense it is true, for miracles do indeed need to be worked at. It requires faith and it requires prayer. One of the most under-rated things in our churches today is the power of prayer. In the past we can recall that many churches held weekly prayer meetings. The congregation would gather on some week night and the individual members would pray. Not just the preacher, the members. But we have become a little too sophisticated for that, and so we let the preacher do all of the praying. After all isn't this what he gets paid for? And so the average layman either has no idea of how to go about praying or doesn't even bother with it, and one of the greatest powers that an individual member could possess is lost. This is a sad tragedy indeed, for in our modern world with all of its ills ^{ALL OF ITS} and troubles, nothing can fill the empty soul better than to be able to talk to God. There is no greater cure for the fidgets, or nervousness, or frustration or what have you than communion with our God. If all of the Christians in the world

would do this the world would not have all of the trouble spots in it. Someone once said, "More miracles are wrought by prayer, than by anything else." I think we need to strive to have a revival of prayer in our churches, to bring back some of this old time religion, and just maybe we can change some of the trouble spots of our world. Too often we go to the trouble of using the canned prayers, by this I mean we use what someone else has written, and it has no meaning for us. We need to be able to talk to God just as we would the person sitting next to us. God does not want all of the, Thee's and Thou's, ^{FORMALITY} He wants us to talk to him, to communicate with Him through prayer. We can only do this when we are sincerely interested in doing His will in our lives.

One other thing we need to do is to look ever to the Lord for our help. Too often we look manward instead of Godward. By this I mean that we place our trust and allegiance in man. An example of this is to look to our president for all the help that is needed. Whether the man be the president or one of our local officials, they are only men and like us have feet of clay. They may be able to solve our road problems, or our tax problems but they cannot do the things for us that will fit us for eternity. The story has been told of Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur and a fishing trip they had. There was a lull in their duties and they decided to take advantage of it and do a little fishing. So they set out in this small boat and while they were busily engaged in fishing a sudden squall arose and capsized the boat. Admiral Nimitz was the first to reach the overturned boat and he righted it and clambered aboard. With the help of an oar he was able to get General MacArthur aboard and when they were once again seated he asked the General for a favor. He said, Now Mac, don't mention this to anyone. I'd be disgraced if the men of the navy learned that I can't swim." "Don't worry," MacArthur replied. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water." We can look to our leaders for our material help, but when it comes to the help that can only come from God, we can only go to God for that help. Men are only men and always will be.

When we think of the remark, "The age of miracles is past," we need to ask, "Is it?" Is the day gone by when God can no longer reveal Himself to man? I think in all seriousness we have to say that this cannot possibly be

true. To say so is to accept the God is dead theory. How can we explain away some of the miraculous things that have taken place in our world. If we stop to think of the wondrous things that medical science has done it can't help but make us marvel. Think for instance of the man in Africa who took the diseased heart out of one man and replaced it with a healthy heart removed from a recently deceased other human, and the man lived for over a year. Since then many, many, more transplants have been done. Look at the miracle wrought by inoculation. For years children were crippled with a dreaded disease we now call Polio. Back then it was Infantile Paralysis. One of our presidents ^{F.D.R.} was a victim of this himself and he started a drive called, "The march of dimes". Annually this drive was held to supply needed funds for the research to conquer this disease. Through the work of many scientists the disease has all but disappeared from America. This past summer I heard of one case being reported, and this was the first in three or four years. Look at the miracle in rocketry and space travel. What started out toward the end of World War II as an instrument to drive England into oblivion and submission, has become the vehicle that men ride from this planet into space. We need to but look around us and certainly we can see the hand of God. God is the guiding hand for the surgeon. He is the guiding mind for the scientist that he can figure the complicated problems. God is the influence behind each and every venture that takes place in the world. Now this is not to say that God is responsible for the evil in the world. This is the will of man and cannot be blamed on God. But in all of the spectacles of the world can't we see miracles? Can't we see the hand of God? To say otherwise is to give man the credit. And certainly we cannot give man the credit for he could not do anything if God did not first give him the brains ^{of the intelligence} to do it. Therefore I feel very strongly that we dare not say the age of miracles is past. Because God does reveal Himself to man. And He reveals His nature to man. We have miracles with us in greater numbers than they have ever been seen.

Only God can work miracles. God has worked through man down through the years and He still continues to work through man today. But man must be willing to seek God. He must let Him come into his life. Man must be the willing tool of God and humbly seek His help and guidance for his life. Only then can he

know the peace and joy that God imparts into the life of man. An anonymous person wrote the following few lines of poetry and entitled it simply, "God's Love!"

"We can only see a little of the ocean,
A few miles distant from the rocky shore;
But out there beyond, beyond our eyes horizon,
There's more-- there's more!
We can only see a little of God's loving
A few rich treasures from His mighty store;
But out there beyond, beyond our eyes horizon,
There's more-- there's more!

Isn't this truly as God is? We cannot envision all that life has in store for us, but we know that out there beyond the horizon is the love of God going on endlessly. No matter where we go, or what we do, God goes with us if we let Him. He can work His miracle in you and I daily if we let Him. What we each need to learn is to seek Him in all things, to try to walk a little closer with Him. Only then can we see the miracles that He has wrought, and the miracles that He is constantly working out in the lives of men. Let us pray.

The Age Of Miracles Is Dead!

Text: Luke 7; 14 & 15

From time to time you hear various remarks such as, "The age of miracles is past," or someone will say, "It'll take a miracle to bring this or that about." What is being expressed is a belief in miracles on one hand and a disbelief on the other. One of the most disturbing things about the ministry of Jesus has been His miracles. Lloyd Douglas, in fact wrote a book entitled, "Those Disturbing Miracles." This book deals not only with the miracles of Jesus, but the miracles of the Old Testament as well. So you see the miracles of the Bible and in particular the miracles of Jesus have caused controversy from time to time.

What constitutes a miracle? Generally it is some event or occurrence that is out of the ordinary. Something not necessarily supernatural but bordering on the unusual. There are many Church people who cannot accept the miracles of Jesus. They try to reason them away or try to prove or disprove them scientifically. But to do so is to refute much of what makes us Church people or Christians to be more specific. If we doubt that Jesus for instance ~~was~~ did not raise the young man from the dead as we read in our scripture, then we cannot believe that Jesus Himself arose from the dead. Because how can you believe one and not the other? If God in His Infinite wisdom was able to raise His Son from death to life, why is He not able to raise a common man through the efforts of His Son? In order to believe one we need to believe the other or our religion is contradictory. We must sincerely believe that Jesus arose from the dead or we cannot truthfully ~~profess~~ use our profession of faith, the Apostles Creed. To do otherwise is to not only ~~be~~ blaspheming but to make a liar of ourselves.

This morning we are not going to become involved in all of these miracles, instead we are going to delve into the reality of miracles and thus we can draw our own conclusions. The first thing that confronts us is the age in which these events took place. Some people have said that they were written in the language and style and belief of the day in which they were written. But this is to explain it all away too easily. Let us just suffice to say that we can all accept that they were written in the age and language of the people involved. But to pass it all off as merely a figment of an active imagination is ~~was~~ trying to dodge the issues at hand. To the remark that the age of miracles is past, we need to ask,

"Is it?" Is the day past when God can reveal himself to man? Can man no longer expect Him to intervene into mans little world? I think in all seriousness we have to say that this cannot possibly be true. To say so is to accept the God is dead theory. How can we explain away the miraculous cures that have been effected from time to time? How can we explain the wondrous things that man has been able to accomplish? We must begin to look about us and to see the hand of God in all things. God is the guiding hand for the surgeon that he can perform his miracles with human lives. God is the mind for the scientist that he can figure the complicated theories to send man soaring off into space. In other words God is the influence behind each and every venture that takes place in the world. Now this is not saying that God is responsible for the evil that takes place. This is the will of man and cannot be blamed on God. But in all of the spectaculars of the world can't we see miracles? If we stop to think of the wonderful things that medical science has and can do its fabulous. In Africa a doctor removed the ^{diseased} heart of one man and replaced it with the good heart of another man who had just died. This man lived for over a year. Since then many others have followed in rapid succession. One man that ^{HAVE} followed the story of very closely is the man in Pittsburgh Ben Anolik. As far as I ~~could~~ termine he is still living since having another heart given to him and this has been some time ago. Look at the miracle wrought by scientists in the field of inoculation. For years children were crippled with what was known then as Infantile Paralysis. One of our presidents Franklin Roosevelt started a campaign to collect funds for research to help stamp it out. Through the work of the scientists it has been practically eradicated. This past summer I heard of one case being reported. Then look at the miracle of scientific achievement in the realm of rocketry and space travel. What started out toward the end of world war 2 as a weapon to obliterate England, is now the vehicle to launch men from earth to an exploration of space. All of these things must definitely be considered as miracles of God. To say otherwise is to give man all of the credit for these achievements. And certainly we cannot give man the credit for he could not do it if God did not first give him the brains. Therefore I feel very strongly that we dare not say the age of miracles is past. Because God does reveal His will and His nature to man.

Then to use the phrase that is so often used, "It'll take a miracle." is ~~very close to~~ akin to saying it is almost impossible. But miracles require a little help some-
TIMES

You have probably all heard ~~or~~ or seen the sign which states, "The impossible we can do immediately, but miracles will take a little longer." Which in a sense is very true. For miracles

like impossible things must be worked at and much of this work requires faith and prayer

I think one of the most under rated things in our churches today is the power of prayer.

~~Most of the churches~~ ^{IN THE PAST} had regular prayer meetings. The congregation would gather and the individual members would pray. Not just the preacher. The members themselves. But you see we have gotten a little too sophisticated for that and so we let the preacher do all of the praying for us. After all this is what he gets paid for. And so the average layman either has no idea of how to go about praying or doesn't even bother with it. And one of the greatest powers that a Church or an individual member could possess is lost. This is a sad tragedy indeed. For in our modern world with all of its ills and troubles, nothing can fill the empty soul better than to be able to talk to God. There is no greater cure for the fidgets or nervousness or irritability or some of the other ills that plague mankind than the communion we can have with our Father. To be able to go off alone somewhere and to talk it over with Him. If all of the world could do this we would not have all of the trouble spots in it. ~~But prayer helps in talking about our trials and~~

was looking for the quotation this week and could not find it. I hope I am not too far off with it but someone once said, "More miracles are wrought by prayer than ^{by} anything else."

We need to strive to have a revival of prayer in our churches. To bring back some of the old time religion and just maybe we could change some of the areas of our world.

One other thing we need to do and that is to look ever to the Lord for our help. Too often we look manward instead of Godward. By this I mean that we place our trust and our allegiance in man. An example of this is to look to our president for the help that is needed. Too often we forget that be he the president or one of our local officials, they are only men and just like any of us have feet of clay. They may be able to make decisions that can solve our problems, but they cannot do the things for us that can fit us for eternity. The story is told of Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur during world war 2. During a lull in their duties they were fishing together. A sudden squall came up and the boat capsized and they were thrown into the water. Floundering around for a while they both managed to reach the boat. The admiral was the first to scramble into the boat. With the aid of an oar he was able to get the general into the boat. "Now Mac," he cautioned, "don't mention this to anyone. I'd be disgraced if the

men of the navy learned I can't swim." "Don't worry," Macarthur replied. "Your secret is safe. I'd hate to have my men find out I can't walk on water." Men are only men and always will be.

ly God can work miracles. God has worked through man down through the years. And He still works through man if man just lets Him. Man must be willing to seek God. Man must be willing to humbly seek God's guidance in his life and then he can only know the peace and the joy that God imparts into the life of man. An anonymous person wrote a little poem about God's love that I think sums it all up. It is entitled simply, "God's Love". Page 75 Best Loved Religious Poems. Isn't this truly as God is? We can not envision all that life has in store for us, but we know that out there beyond the horizon is the love of God going on endlessly. No matter where we go or what we do God goes with us if we let Him. He can work His miracle in you and I daily if we let Him. What we each need to learn is ^{to} seek Him in all things. To try to walk a little closer with Him. Only then can we see the miracles that He has wrought and the miracles that He is constantly working out in the lives of men. Let us pray.

St. John Emelnton 11:00 10/13/68

Processional Hymn 17
*Call to Worship (Choir)
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Sel. 54 Pg. 601
In 193
Scripture Matthew 10; 16-24
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Chicken supper Salem Oct. 24th Thurs.

FALL MEETING CLARK ASSOC.

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn 158
Sermon
Iyer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 72
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Postlude

Salem Lemartine 9:30 10/13/68

*Processional Hymn 39
*Call to Worship Page 219
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Matthew 10; 16-24
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Chicken supper Oct. 24th

LADIES AID THURS. 8:00
A-TAR FLAMERS WERE PRESENTED BY
DON & ARNE SHERMAN IN MEMORY OF
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP 6:30 THEIR INFANT
SON.
HISTORY OF SALEM ON BACK TABLE

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 76
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 274
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Postlude

Thank you sincerely

for sharing our sorrow

Your kindness will always be held

in grateful remembrance

Best E. Wynne

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

August 23, 1970

Service of Worship

Prelude
*Hymn # 11
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship Confession of Sin
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Leviticus 19:1-18
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (Front of hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 406 # 406

Sermon "Who is My Neighbor?"
Text Leviticus 19:18
Offering
*Doxology (Trinity Church)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn # 393
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

*Congregation Standing

WELCOME VISITORS

insurance cancelled because they have done things which the insurance companies consider as causing them to become targets for vandalism, fire bombing and burning. Now this may not be the same as the church persecuting Christians, in fact it is the exact reverse. But nevertheless the principle is the same. This is what occurs when we think of the church as being a safe little sanctuary where we can go and worship and pray and that is it. The church must be involved in the world. It must be willing to spread the word, and go into the local neighborhood and give of its material and spiritual wealth for the betterment of mankind. I say, thank God, for the freedom of the Protestant pulpit, that permits a mere layman such as I to try to speak the truth to let it be heard. This is what we need today throughout the world. But unfortunately about all we hear is double talk and what the world itself wants to hear. The Church should be speaking the truth everywhere, and letting the chips fall where they may. This is what Jesus taught. He said that the truth shall make you free. This is where the church is failing and yet this^{is} where it should be strongest. Only with churches full of people willing to hear the truth and willing to act upon it will the church survive and become the strong door of the will of Christ. Only with churches willing to involve themselves with those who need the help of the church will, the kingdom of God be advanced. This is the duty of you and you and me.

Then Jesus said that families and friends would desert His followers. Look at what happened to Jesus Himself. At the time when He needed his friends and their help they fled. They were not around when He came to trial. They were afraid they would be implicated. He promised this to them and they really never must have believed what He said. Or else they forgot His words only to remember them after it was all over. And this is what you and I do. We neglect to do something at one point, and after the chance or the opportunity to assist has passed, we say, "If only I had done so and so." Don't we? I know that I have done this often and the strange thing is that even when we resolve this will not happen again, it usually does. This is our weakness and we must come to God and pray for strength. Few of us ever get the opportunity to be brave and strong like some of our early Christian martyrs. One of the most famous martyrs was Polycarp the

bishop of Smyrna. He was dragged by a mob to the tribunal of the Roman magistrate. He was given the choice of sacrifice to the godhead of Caesar or death. He replied, "Eighty and six years have I served Christ, and He has done me no wrong. How can I Caspheme my king who saved me?" So they took him to the stake to be executed. And he prayed his last prayer. "O Lord God Almighty, the Father of Thy well beloved and ever blessed Son, by whom we have received the knowledge of Thee. I thank Thee that Thou hast graciously thought me worthy of this day and of this hour." Now here is the persecution that is extreme. But this could well be the persecution the followers of Jesus may have to suffer. It happened in Germany, and it is happening in Russia today. So we cannot say that it can't happen to us. But we are committed to Christ and we must be willing to die for Him if necessasary. This is what Jesus promises us. Not a bed of roses or a soft and easy life. But a life of unease and discomfort ,be cause we are willing to follow Him.

"O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; I give Thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer fuller be.

O cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee; i lay in dust lifes glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be." Let us pray.

~~The Good Samaritan~~

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR

Text: Leviticus 19; 11-18

A man was driving along Pa. Interstate 80 one dark night and seeing two hitchhikers he decided to stop and pick them up. Since he was alone he thought that perhaps it would help ^{PASS THE LONELY TIME} to have company. The two men he picked up were young men in their early twenties. Several miles after they entered the car, one of them drew a gun and demanded that the man pull over to the side of the road. When the car stopped they ordered him out, and demanded his wallet and wrist watch. When they had taken everything of value that the man had, they beat him up and left him beside the road, driving off in his car. He lay on the shoulder of the road for several hours. Many cars passed him but none stopped. He was laying in such a way that the headlights of the oncoming cars could not help but make him visible. Finally an elderly man stopped to investigate, and since the nearest phone was some distance away, he decided the best thing to do was to take him to the nearest hospital. So he drove him to the hospital and had the man admitted. The man was suffering not only from the severe beating but from exposure as well. When he was admitted the man who had picked him up had to answer the routine questions that are asked at a time like this, and since the man had no identification, the admitting nurse was sceptical as to whether the hospital would be reimbursed for their services. The elderly man very graciously consented to stand all the expenses involved. Who was the foolish driver? Who was the very generous ~~man~~ and compassionate man? Where did this all happen? The answer is that this is not a true story. It is simply what would probably be considered today as a new translation of the Good Samaritan. In the Gospel of Luke Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan. A man identified as a lawyer, first asked Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life, and the answer was, that he should love God with all his heart and soul and mind, and his neighbor as himself. ~~Feeling~~ ^{HE} Feeling that he had been outsmarted, and wanting to justify himself ^{HE} asked and who is my neighbor? This question is asked by many people. We could all ask this and be justified in doing so. Sometimes it is not easy to recognize our neighbor. Sometimes there is doubt as to helping our neighbor. First we need to define neighbor.

Salem Limestone 9:30 8/2/69

*Processional Hymn 323

*Choral Call to Worship

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

*Scripture Psalm 19

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

Announcements

CALL WAS EXTENDED TO DR. G. M. LAND

VOTE FAUSKAR 4E

VISITORS

Offering, Response, Prayer

Hymn 316

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 252

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

*Postlude

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 323

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

CONFESSIOH OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESP. READING SEL 77 PG 624

HYMN 372

SCRIPTURE PSALM 19

GLORIA PATRI

APOSTLES CREED

PRAYER

ANTHEM

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEXT SUN 9:30

OFFERING, PRAYER

HYMN 463

SERMON

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 87

BENEDICTION

THREEFOLD AMEN

I looked the word up in the dictionary and it gave several definitions. Among others it said, "One who lives near another," and the one that perhaps tells us more meaningfully than any other is the definition that states, "A fellow being subject to the obligations of humanity." Now here is what Jesus was trying to tell this fellow. The man was probably asking, (if we care to read between the lines,) "Can I love a neighbor who has broken the law and is in prison? Can I love a neighbor who is hateful and spiteful? Can I love a neighbor who shows no love in return? And can I love a neighbor regardless of who or what he is? Again, we can all ask these questions. But there is much more involved in this than the mere word love. To have love for someone means concern, it means a mutual sharing ~~of~~, it means an outreach from one to the other. And it means to have compassion. To have compassion means to be oblivious to what the person has done, or who he is. This is real love to a neighbor. ~~Let me tell you exactly what I mean and then perhaps~~ I hesitate to tell personal experiences because at times this can be rather boring. But if you will permit me I would like to share this one with you. I then perhaps you will see what I am trying to say.

Several years ago when I worked in Pittsburgh on the 4to 12 shift, I was walking across the seventh street bridge in downtown Pittsburgh on my way to the North Side where I parked my car, (for free of course.) When I was half-way across I happened to see a woman standing at the rail looking down into the water.. Perhaps at anytime during the day this would not seem too surprising, but at midnight it is.. Especially around the North Side. It seemed so ~~sixxx~~ strange to me that when I got in my car I ^{FELT A COMPELISON} had to ride over the bridge to see if she was still there.. She was still standing where I had last seen her, so I went to the ~~xt~~ other end of the bridge and turned around and came over the bridge again, and when I got almost to where she had been standing I ^{HER} saw ^{leap} into the river. I stopped the car and ran to the rail and looked down, and she was struggling and calling for help. I ran down to River Avenue and there was a car coming.. I stopped it and luck it was the owner of the cruise ship, "The Gateway Clipper." He and I went to his dock and got a rowboat, and rowed down to where the woman had been, but she was gone.. When we got back to shore the police were there and they questioned us about it.. Because of the police report the story appeared in the Pitts-

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

October 11, 1970

SERVICE OR WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn 323
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin - page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Lesson:
Psalm 19
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (Front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn *INSTALLATION OF OFF & TEACHER* 65
Sermon "The Heavens Declare the Glory of God"
Text Psalm 19:1
Offering
*Doxology (Trinity Church)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 442
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude
*Denotes Congregation Standing

The "Mission Study" sessions of Church Women United will be held in Trinity United Church of Christ, High St., Oct. 14 from 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M., and Oct 21, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

The regular monthly Consistory Meeting of Trinity Church will be held Monday Oct. 12 at 8:00 P.M.

The Heidelberg Fellowship Class of Christ Church will hold their regular monthly meeting Tuesday Oct. 13 at 7:30 P.M.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Martha Leppard Frederick & her husband on the recent birth of a baby boy.

We wish to thank our friends & relatives for their cards, beautiful flowers and other kindnesses during the illness & death of our mother & sister.

The Mary Mumper Family

The Lutheran Church invites the public to an "Open House" at their Parsonage, W. Main St., New Bloomfield today from 2:00 P.M. until 6:00 P.M.

We wish to extend a very warm & hearty "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Elizabeth Saul who is celebrating her 91st birthday today.

Anyone having announcements or information for the bulletin please call the pastor at 582-4798 before Friday morning of each week.

MISS SUMMERVILLE IF THERE

VISITORS WELCOME

Mr & Mrs. DRAVER - Mrs. LEPPER'S PARENTS
Mr & Mrs. NEIL

burgh papers and was even on the television news. As a result of this many people gave me their personal viewpoints on what had taken place. ^{& WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE DONE} One of these was a member of my home Church. It just so happens that he runs a radio and television repair shop facing on Fort Duquesne Boulevard. Because of this he said that he had seen many people leap from the bridges to commit suicide. And he also told me that had this same incident happened when he was crossing the bridge, he would have kept on going and let on that it never happened. This has made me do some very serious thinking since that time. Was the remark that this man made an isolated case of not caring about anyone else? Is he perhaps a rarity among men? I think not. In fact I know he isn't. The reason why I know is that several times I have said almost the same thing about someone. He got himself into that mess so let him see how he gets out of it. Does this remark sound familiar? Let him stew in his own soup for awhile. I wouldn't help him if my life depended on it. All of these remarks are made and being made about people throughout the world daily. I think if we were to ask for a show of hands this morning we would find that each of us has said or made a remark such as this at one time or another. But we are not going to try to embarrass anyone in this way. But what I am going to ask is that each of us think about the cruelty of remarks such as these. Think of the amount of hatred that is engendered through remarks of this kind. Then think of what takes place when we see a chance to help someone. We have hardened our hearts and our spirits to the point that we simply turn our backs when we could help. Think of that poor girl in New York who was stabbed repeatedly until she was murdered, and right in plain sight of many able bodied men who could have ganged up on her assailant and run him off at least. This is what comes from not caring about your neighbor. We harden ourselves little by little until we reach the point that we can actually see someone killed before our eyes and never lift a finger to help. This is what is wrong with America today. This is what is causing the lawlessness and disregard for authority in our land today. Anyone who is up to no good knows that the average citizen is not too prone to intervene in his misdeeds. So he feels free to do his deeds of dishonesty or whatever it may be and very often he gets away with it. But we as a people and we as a nation must come back to the realization that every man woman and child in this world are our

neighbors. We are responsible to them. We owe them our help and our support. This is irregardless whehter they are Christian or Jew. Whether they are White or Red or Black or Yellow. Whether they are Communist or Nationalist or of any other Political persuasion. What Jesus said about helping your neighbor had no strings attached. God's command through Moses had no strings attached. It states love your ^{N/E 164002} as yourself. And basically we love ourselves pretty good. Don't we? At least we always take care of good old number 1 first. And this is part of the trouble with

~~in the parable of the good Samaritan Jesus tells the story and then Jesus asked the classic question "Which of the three proved~~
the world today. Everyone more or less is out for himself. There is a little story that would seem to fit into this thinking. One Sunday afternoon in order to have a little rest, a man tore a picture of the map of the world from a newspaper, cut it into a number of odd shaped pieces and gave it to his daughter to take into the living room to put the world together again. He hoped for an hour of quiet, but in five minutes she was back, announcing that the world was all laid out on the floor. How did you ever do it in such a short time? asked the dumbfounded father. "Oh that was simple", she explained. "There was a picture of a man on the other side of the map. I just put the man together correctly- and then the world was all okay." Doesn't this pretty much tell us what needs to be done?

After Jesus told the story of the, "Good Samaritan," He asked the classic question, "Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbor to the man who fell into the brigands hands?" The lawyer replied, "The one who took pity on him." And then Jesus gave the command that should shake us each one to the very depths of our beings, because we do not do it, or if we do it isn't too often. He said, "Go, and do the same yourself." Let us pray.

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God.

Psalms 19

Those who are followers of the science of Astrology tell us to look to the stars for our future. People have been looking at the stars and talking about them for centuries. The entire Bible is full of quotations about the heavens and the stars. ^{LAST YEAR} Just recently millions of eyes ^{WERE} have been turned heavenward as Appollo 11 blasted off into space to have a rendezvous with the moon as well as with history. ^{NOW THAT THE FLIGHT IS OVER} The battle lines have ~~now~~ ^{HAVE BEEN} been drawn and people ~~are~~ arguing both pro and con the rightness or the wrongness of this venture by our country.

~~I read an interesting article in Christianity Today on this space flight that~~
~~prompted me to do some serious thinking about this latest venture of the U.S.~~ ^{UNITED STATES}

Our space program has thrown quite a few past theories and thinking down the drain. Some people have even said that it has shaken the faith of too many people and therefore it is all wrong and it should cease. I believe that I must first state that I believe that this program will in the future reap benefits that our present day mankind cannot even foresee. You and I and most of the people living today may not ^{LIVE TO} see it. But I believe there is more good than harm that will be the ultimate end ^{OF THIS MISSION}. Anyone who professes to be a believer in God and especially in Jesus Christ as the Son of God should be mature enough and intelligent enough that he can change his thinking from time to time. This does not mean that he throws out all of his old Theology and says well now lets start over. Not at all. But from time to time when something occurs that makes our past thinking need changing we need not resist and say, "I can't believe that, why I have had this belief for so and so many years." This is not only juvenile but very poor thinking. We need new ideas and new thoughts to keep our interest alive. We need to be young in mind regardless of our age. This is what keeps many of our senior citizens so vibrant and alive. The continual search for truth and knowledge. The continual seeking and questing, and not forming those dreaded opinions that bore ^{other} people to tears. I know many so called older people who are not only intelligent, but a joy to be with. Their speech and their interest in life around them amazes me. They may not be young in body, but their minds are as keen and alert as any teen-ager. But alas I also know some who do nothing but bemoan and bewail the plight of mankind and the dire circumstances in store for him. And it is mostly these people

Salem Lamartine 9:30 9/15/68

Processional Hymn 30

*Call to Worship Pg. 212

Confession of Sin
Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Proverbs 4

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem 447

Announcements

YOUTH FELL. 6:30

EVERYTHING SOLD AT SALE IN

KNOX BY LADIES AND

LADIES AND TWEL 7:00

Offering, Response, Prayer

*Hymn 307

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 319

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

*Postlude

St. John's Emlenton 11:00 9/15/68

*Processional Hymn 206

*Trinitarian Ascription

*Choral Response

*Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading Pg. 615 Sel. 68

Hymn 77

Scripture Proverbs 4

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Pastoral Prayer & Response

Anthem

Announcements

Offering, Prayer

*Hymn 273

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 256

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

*Postlude.

whose faith has been shattered and altered by the flight of Appollo 11. Why there is even a society or group that still very fervently believes that the earth is flat. They have their headquarters in England and the head man was on ^{THE} Joe Pyne ^{SHOW} one night. He tried to down grade everything that has come out of the space program as so much hog wash. The pictures that showed the earth as being round were according to him, optical illusions. This is only one group and there are many ~~others~~ ^{ARE} just like this. Groups that ^{ARE} unwilling to change with the times.

One thing that has been proven is that the sky overhead is not a blue ceiling as has been thought by many for many years. As a young boy I always thought of the sky in this way. That beyond the stars that we can see, the sky ended and enveloped the world and the stars. ^{EXAMPLE OF MAN & SAYING ASTROS IN HEAVEN} But man has proven that there are probably as many stars beyond the ones we can see with our eyes. That space is truly infinite without and end. We have also discovered that God has given man the intelligence and the ability to soar beyond the confines of the earth and to reach one of those unreachable stars, ^{THE SPACE SCIENTISTS} to land on the moon and to return from whence he came. This feat utterly amazes me. I cannot for the life of me begin to fathom how men have been able to solve this complex dream and make it a reality. Some have claimed that man has overstepped his bounds and is out in God's realm now. I defy anyone to show me in the Bible where it tells us, "Thou shalt not tread beyond the confines of the earth in which you have been placed." It does tell us though, "The heavens declares the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge." There is the secret, knowledge. Knowledge that is a gift from God for those who seek it. In a poll taken of these most brilliant men, ^{THE SPACE SCIENTISTS} an almost unanimous opinion expressed by them is that there is some Being or power that controls all this and keeps it in the very delicate and complex order in which it is. They all feel that it is not just fate or chance that does it but something bigger than mere man.

Something superhuman and supreme. This is the show of knowledge.

^{IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT}

[^] The United Church of Christ played an important role in this moon flight. Neil Armstrong the first man to walk on the moon ~~was~~ grew up in an Ohio Evangelical and Reformed church which we now know as The United Church of Christ. Nor is the other man Edwin Aldrin an atheist. He took along some Communion bread.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

AUGUST 30, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn 42
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin - page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Proverbs :: Chapter 4
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 452
Sermon "A Lesson for Sons and Daughters"
Text Proverbs 4 :: vs. 3
Offering
*Doxology (Trinity)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 446
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude
*Congregation Standing

The Congregation of Christ Church will hold a chicken Bar-B-Que, Sept. 6, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the cottage of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hepfer. Will ALL who plan to attend PLEASE give your name and number attending to Paul Hepfer or Russel Kiner so proper arrangements can be completed.

The Women's Missionary Group of Christ Church are selling Sympathy, Birthday, and, Get-Well cards. Anyons having need for such cards please contact Mrs. Lawson Steele, or, any member of this Association.

The Blue Ridge Quartette will be at Susquenita High School, Monday evening, August 31, at 8:00 O'clock. Tickets will be available at the door.

We will be starting a Confirmation Class in the Fall for Boys and Girls twelve (12) years of age and older. Will Parents or anyone knowing of eligible Youth please contact the Pastor (tel. 582-4798) or the Sunday School Superintendent of either Church so that proper arrangements can be made for this Class?

Will the members of both Trinity Church and Christ Church PLEASE give any announcements they wish printed in the bulletin to Pastor Link by Thursday Noon of each week???

while which he ate ^{on} the moon. He is an active Presbyterian churchman and his fellow church people were taking Communion that same day. He radioed a request, ^{to} "every person listening in to contemplate the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his or her own way." This is gratifying to note that two very ~~int~~ telligent individuals ~~do~~ not take all the credit but ~~try to~~ gave it to whom it should be given.

One large argument about this venture ^{was} ~~has been~~ the expenditure of 24 billion dollars ~~xxxx~~ instead of using this money for helping the underprivileged. One man ~~has~~ pointed out that 24 billion dollars is what Americans spend on Alcoholic beverages every year. All of us spend countless dollars on ourselves that we could use to help someone else. But do we? Of course not. Oh I know a small portion of what we contribute to the church goes to help those who need help. But have we ever raised a concerted effort in our churches to stamp out poverty and need. The answer of course is no. Look around and see what our churches are all doing. We spend thousands of dollars for uncalled for additions. ^{face} lift our interiors and thousands and ^{more} probably millions die of hunger and starvation. ^{EXAMPLE OF CHURCH IN INDIA} I believe we need to all put our houses in order and ^{start} being the professed followers of Him who told us to feed the poor and clothe the naked and give the thirsty a drink of water. But we can very piously sit back and say, "My what a waste of money to send a couple of men to the moon and for what?" As though we were all doing, all that we possibly can to ease the burden of the unfortunate.

One other argument that has been raised is the possibility of life on another planet. Billy Graham got into the act in ^{an} ~~recent~~ interview by, "This Week", when he said, "There are hints in the Bible of life on other planets." I do not know to what part of the Bible he refers, ^{to}, but I do not doubt it. I believe very strongly that there may be life elsewhere. I base this on the fact that ~~once~~ again the Bible does not state anywhere that I have read that the earth is the only place where God let creatures live. It does not say that God limited Himself in His creation. He may have created dozens of earths far beyond what we can view with our largest telescopes. When we limit God to just creating the earth

A Lesson For Sons and Daughters

Proverbs 4:3 I too was once a son with a father, in my mothers eyes a tender child, unique..

The thing that I think is utterly amazing, is the fact that the more I read the Bible and ponder over it's words, the more I am convinced that the writers were speaking to us. To our generation. To our day. It doesn't seem as though it is ancient history at all, but that their problems are our problems today. Perhaps ours are more multiplied because of the vast population. But here is where we come to the part of saying that the scriptures were written by inspired men of God. This I believe is borne out by the fact that the words written for an earlier age are just as true today. Our scripture for this morning tells us quite a bit about some of the problems of their day. If we listened closely perhaps we could hear our voices raised along with the writer, telling our children how to behave and live. But we better look at the book of Proverbs and then maybe we will know some of the background and perhaps we will understand it a little better.

To begin with the book is one of those very rarely used for the basis of a sermon. Yet this to me is unusual, because of the contents of the book. However if we read the proverbs in the King James version and then read it in the newer translations of the Bible, the words seem to aquire new meaning. In fact the meaning is clearer. This is not to knock the King James version of the Bible, but the old english which is used is confusing to most of us. One of the things that has been found out about the newer versions is the fact that more people can understand what they are reading than they ever could with the King James version.

But getting back to the Proverbs. The book starts off with a long introduction in which a father commends wisdom to his son. This is then followed by the body of the book which is made up of two collections. The first is called One Proverbs of Solomon, and the second is called the Proverbs of Solomon transcribed by the men of Hezekiah. Now according to I Kings 5:12, Solomon was the author of three thousand proverbs, and he was considered to be the greatest

and all that we can see or feel or touch then we are once again making Him a very small God. We are trying to limit Him and we are doing exactly as the Jews of old, putting Him in a box and hoping to keep Him locked up there.

"This is my Fathers world, And to my listening ears,

All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Fathers world; I rest me in the thought of Rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Fathers world, the birds their carols raise,

The morning light the lily white, declare their Makers praise.

This is my Fathers world; He shines in all thats fair; In the rustling grass

I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Fathers world, O let me neer forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.

This is my Fathers world; the battle is not done; Jesus who died shall be satisfied, and earth and heaven be one."

This lovely hymn tells of ones mans thinking about His Father. My friends, we all have little petty ideas of what God is, Where He is, Who He is, and so on, but all of this does not matter. What does matter is that each day we can be with Him. Each waking moment we can love Him. We can talk to Him. And the best part about all this is that He cares. He listens and He most certainly loves us in return. We need not be startled at the events taking place around us. God had a plan and a purpose in mind for His children. If he made other habitable places for man to live on and man finds them and explores them and settles them, it could be a part of God's plan for what we now call the overpopulation of this earth. We must learn to grow in our thinking from time to time. To accept change and to be willing to continually search for the answers that can and will come from God. But we must place ourselves in His tender loving care first, and then He will reveal all things in due time to all men. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork." The psalmist of old stated this and we in the 20th century can very well say it too. Only we can add to it that the intelligence that He has given man that enables man to step on to another part of His creation, also shows His handiwork. May we seek God in all things and may we ever love Him as we ought. Let us pray.

sage of Israel. The Biblical scholars who compiled the Jerusalem Bible have placed an introduction to Proverbs and they state, "The impersonal accent of the proverbs makes it impossible to assign any particular maxim to the king, but there is no reason to doubt that this collection as a whole dates from his time." It goes on to say that the second collection of proverbs in the book which are supposed to be the proverbs of Solomon transcribed by the men of Hezekiah, were already ancient maxims when the men of Hezekiah collected them in around 700 B.C. The writings of the introduction makes scholars think that it was written around the fifth century, two hundred years later. So you see it was not compiled all at once. The book closes with an epilogue which in this case is an alphabetical poem in praise of an ideal wife.

Now if we look at the words of this proverb we see that the father is more or less trying to reason with his sons. He tells them to listen because what he is giving to them is sound doctrine. He reminds them that, "I too was once a son with a father, in my mothers eyes a tender child unique. How familiar these words may seem to some of us. Many times when we try to reason with our children they can't accept what we have to say because it is hard for them to believe that we ourselves were once children. Our children seem to think that we must have been born adults. Therefore we don't know the problems that children have. This problem must have been just as prominent in Biblical times as it is today. So how do we cope with it? The answer is that we can't. We can only hope that what we try to instill in our children will have a lasting effect on their lives. In a nature study class the children were taught how the birds learned to fly. After the lesson the new young teacher said that they would have a flying lesson of their own. She went to the piano and played a song and at a given chord they began waving their arms as though they were flying. All except little Johnny. What's the matter Johnny asked the teacher, don't you want to imitate a newly hatched bird?"Aw, said Johnny, I aint hatched yet. I'm a bad egg." It has been a known fact that most of the kids who go wrong come from a bad home, or from a bad home life. In studies made the kids who were always in trouble or in a jam usually had no religious training or teaching in their homes.

St. John Balenton 9:30 11/17/68

*Processional Hymn 14
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading - 73 R. 62
Hymn 20
Scripture 2 Cor. 10
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn 275
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 475
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

Salem Lamartine 11:00 11/17/68

*Processional Hymn 198
*Call to Worship Pg. 8
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture 2 Cor. 10
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

FLOWERS FROM MR. & MRS. LAWRENCE
NEELY IN
MEMORY OF MR. & MRS. DYPON
NEELY.
DEC. 1ST.
REJOICINGS OF WED.

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 211
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 34
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

Religion must play some part in the life of a child. It must help keep most of them on the right track. How else can we explain the statistics? We can't. But we can continue to try to give this religion to our children. Not only in the home but in church and in the school. Perhaps we can't teach them religion in the classroom. But those of us who are teachers can show them what we believe in by how we conduct ourselves and our classes. We never know what kind of an impression we leave on children. So we must continue to instill in all those children we have contact with the proper values and the right way of life.

This scripture also seems to give the impression that this teaching is a bit old fashioned. Have your children ever made you feel as though you belonged to the stone age? I heard many times from different people that this took place as your children grew older. However I felt that this was sometime in the far, far future. However the other evening the kids were in the living room doing their homework and I heard the boys talking about mathematics. Dale asked Lloyd if he knew how to do his mathematics. He used some of the terms such as, positive and negative integers, absolute value and additive inverses. You are looking at one of the cave men. I not only never heard of these things when I went to school much less know how to do them. This is nothing to our kids. They know all about it. This is probably one of the main problems of our society today. We cannot communicate between parents and children. We cannot meet on common ground. Our children are much more advanced than we old people ever were when we were their age. They are more intelligent in many ways. However the old values still remain the same. They always will be the same. These are the values of right and wrong. This means obedience and discipline. Perhaps some of our troubles today are caused by parents recognizing the superior intelligence of their children and they may feel inferior and therefore neglect these values. But children are the same as they ever were. They need guidance and they need to be given the basics of getting along in life.

Another verse ^{ANOTHER} in Proverbs says, "Instruct a child in the way he should go, and when he grows old he will not leave it." This still comes back to the old time values. With them we stand a chance of having a decent law abiding

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

October 25, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn 8
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin - page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Lesson:
II Corinthians 10
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (Front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 271
Sermon "On Being Commended By The Lord"
Text II Corinthians 10:18
Offering
*Doxology (Trinity Church)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 472
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

Harvest Home and a Thank Offering Service will be observed in both churches in November. The dates will be announced later.

Confirmation Class will be held today from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M.

Tonight at 7:30 P.M. there will be a community service in the Trinity Lutheran Church, New Bloomfield. The brief worship service will be followed by a panel discussion with congregational involvement. Refreshments will be served after the service. It is hoped that our congregation will support this service. *MINISTERIAL TREASURY*

Mrs. Gertrude Wilson is in the Black Hospital in Lewistown recovering from a fall. She is in Room 8 and would be cheered by your visits or cards and well wishes.

The Junior Sunday School of Trinity Church is having a Halloween Party tonight from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF will be observed in New Bloomfield Oct. 26 from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M. Junior High youth are asked to meet at St. Bernard's Church at 6:00 P.M. *REFRESHMENTS*
Get collection to CH. World Service NEW. WNDP
Trick or Treat for UNICEF will be observed on Wednesday Oct. 28 in Duncannon. Children taking part will meet at the United Church of Christ social room at 7:00 P.M. *HO.*

The new order of worship will begin next Sunday November 1. A copy of this new order may be seen on the bulletin boards.

Beginning with Sunday November 1st. the services will once again change. Trinity 9:00 A.M. & Christ 10:30 A.M.

4.

society in the future. Without them we will have the type of citizens we have seen too much of the past few months. The beatniks and the hippies and the yippies are the result of the lack of proper parental authority. Some of them come from decent homes. But for the most part they are the members of a minority. They are the ones who have the feeling that someone owes them something. Some parents have tried to follow the teaching of Dr. Spock and this philosophy is to refrain from using the stick and to use other means ^{OF DISCIPLINING} ~~on~~ the child. The last time I saw Dr. Spock on television he had been convicted of trying to get young men to evade the draft. Many of these wild young men and ladies of society are a direct result of his teaching. So it seems the teacher and his pupils are very much in the same situation. Which is not unexpected.

A little boy told his mother to go away because he wanted to talk to God. "Is it something you can't tell me", asked the mother? "No", he said, "But you will just scold and scold and God will forgive me and forget about it." He said. Now this should be the attitude we have. All of us need the wisdom which we heard spoken of in the scripture this morning. The wisdom of knowing what to do with our children and the wisdom of forgiving and forgetting. What started out to be a message on the scripture we read from Proverbs, may seem to have taken on the tone of a message on how to raise children. But this is not my intent or purpose. The scripture brought to my mind the similarity between our age and the age when this proverb was written. We see the good and bad examples all around us in our daily lives. We read about them in the papers, and we see them on t.v. How these problems can be met or solved is not an easy task. If they are or have been in the world for centuries the solutions must not be easy to come by. But if we look around us and see the families who have raised children who have turned out to be decent law abiding men and women. And then if we look closely and see whether religion or church played a major part in the lives of these families. We can see that the church and religion must ^{OR PLAY A MAJOR ROLE} have an effect [^] for the raising of a family. So therefore we are not wrong or wasting our efforts if we try to continue to have Sunday school as well as church. Perhaps some of you may not be aware that there is a movement underfoot to abolish Sunday school as we know it. In fact there is an experiment going on at the

present time, where the Bible is being taught in some of our colleges and universities. I believe Pennsylvania is one of the states in which the test is being made. If this plan works then it will become part of the curriculum of almost all colleges throughout the nation. The purpose is this; to teach and treat the Bible as a work of literature, and with the studying of it, the students will get more Bible in one semester than they receive in a childhood of going to Sunday school. At least this is what the authorities behind this thinking would have us believe. They tell us if this experiment works then there will be no need for Sunday School. But I still think and feel that we need Sunday School for the simple reason that not every child will go to college. Not every child will elect the Bible course, if it is not a required course. We still need Sunday school because the hour that is spent there is all the religion some kids receive from week to week. So let us strive to keep our Sunday schools alive. Let us be willing workers and teachers. Let us continue to look upon it as doing something for the Lord. There are times in all of our lives when we feel we would rather be doing something else besides study a lesson for Sunday. Sure we would like to be watching t.v. or just relaxing. But let us not forget, that we are not doing this for ourselves, but for God.

The words of the writer of this proverb may today fall upon deaf ears or perhaps half listening ears, but they need repetition. We can each one say as he did, "I too was once a son (or daughter) with a father," and maybe those we are trying to reach may look bored or uninterested, but we must continue to try to instruct as best we can, so that those children we have as our own, or we teach in a class, or we lead in scouts, or brownies, or some other group, may grow to be Christian men and women and take their place as responsible citizens of this nation and the world. Only then can we stop this wildness that has crept into our society. Only then can we overcome the evil influence of the world. Because then we will have some Christ centered men and women ready and able to take on the reins of government, of business, and of professions. May God give each of us the ability to be the proper kind of parents, teachers and leaders of youth. Let us pray.

Being Commended By The Lord.

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:18

Our Scripture this morning is another portion of the letter to the Corinthians written by the apostle Paul. This man more than any other spelled out in infinite detail, what being a Christian is. He became provoked at times and let fly with all he had at his opponents. This is one of those occasions in which he is explaining his thinking in detail. Let us examine what it is he is saying.

First Paul takes these people to task because they seemed to think and feel that Christ belonged to them and to them alone. In my reading about these Corinthian letters I read of an illustration concerning this verse. In East Africa there ^{was} ~~has been~~ a recent revival in the Churches. One of the features of this revival has been a public confession of sin. Probably much similar to what we use at the beginning of our worship. The natives have willingly taken part in this. However the Europeans have had the tendency to stand aloof from it. One of the missionaries wrote, "It is felt that to hold back from it is to refuse to be identified with the fellowship of forgiven sinners. Europeans are often accused of being proud and unwilling to share fellowship in this way." ^{WE HAVE THIS PROBLEM} ~~Now here is a more~~ ^{TODAY} ~~recent example of~~ ^{WHICH} ~~what~~ Paul wrote many years ago. People who seem to think or feel that Christ belongs to them and not to others. ^{PEOPLE WHO FEEL} ~~That~~ confession of sin is good for everyone else but not for them because they do not need confession. So you see this is not a new problem at all. ~~It is a problem that we face today as Paul faced it in ancient times~~ ^{Paul faced it in ancient times} ~~well as ancient times.~~ It is a problem that should constantly require each of us to be on our guard lest we too feel that Christ is ours and He does not belong to our next door neighbor, or to someone who does not go to the same church as us. Let us each examine our hearts and try to keep these selfish ideas and thoughts out of our lives as well as out of our churches.

Then Paul had to face an accusation about his appearance. The Corinthians must have been taunting Paul about his preaching as well as his personal looks. They said that when he is with them he is seen as half a man and no preacher at all. A description of Paul's personal appearance has been handed down from a book entitled, "The Acts of Paul and Thecla." This book dates back to about 200 A.D.

St. John Lutheran 9:30 8/31/69

Processional Hymn 4 ~~57-12-15-18-21~~

*Choral Call to Worship 7/7/69

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Ecclesiastes 3

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem 477

Announcements

Visitors Welcome

Offering, Response, Prayer

Hymn 392

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 229

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

St. John Lutheran 11:00 8/31/69

Processional Hymn 38

*Choral Call to Worship

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading Sel 71 Pg. 618

Hymn 161

Scripture Ecclesiastes 3

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

Announcements

Visitors Welcome

Offering, Prayer

*Hymn 475

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 87

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

It describes Paul as, "A man of little stature, thin haired upon the head, crooked in the legs, of good state of body, with eyebrows meeting, and with nose somewhat crooked, full of grace, for sometimes he appeared like a man, and sometimes he had the face of an angel." This is the description of Paul. A little bowlegged, hooked nosed, shaggy eyebrowed man. This isn't a very impressive picture of the great Apostle. Yet what difference does it make what a man or for that matter a woman, what difference does it make how they look? No one can help with what they have been given in the way of looks, ^{OR APPEARANCE} ^{TODAY WE LOOK TO HAPPINESS ETC.} One of the cruelest things I have always felt, was to make fun of someone because of their looks or their appearance. A man by the name of William Wilberforce is probably the equivalent to our Abraham Lincoln, since he was responsible for the freeing of the slaves in the British empire. But he was a small and frail man. A man heard him speak once in public and this is what he said. "I saw what seemed to me a shrimp mount upon the table, but as I listened, he grew and grew until the shrimp became a whale." We can never judge a person by looks or appearance.

Then Paul is accused of having the nerve to write something, but not having the nerve to say the same thing in the presence of these people. But Paul answers that the same man who wrote the letter is the same man who has the nerve to say the very same thing to their faces. It is an easy thing to do, to sit down and write something nasty to someone. But then it is not as easy to say the ^{same} thing to the person face to face. It is such an easy thing to write like this that we have laws which protect us from nasty letters. The law against libel. In other words if we feel like writing a nasty letter to someone, we better make sure we do not get too carried away or we could find ourselves involved in a court case. But Paul let these people know that such was not his case. He let them know that he was not afraid to talk as plainly to them in person as he did in a letter.

^{THEN} And ~~lastly~~ Paul is accused in this section of Scripture, of being boastful. Of using some big talk as we would say. Two negroes were talking out a professor of a certain negro college. The one remarked to the other, "That Professor Briggs sure uses some big high sounding words don't he?" The other one said, "Yea but ^{HE IS} ~~it's~~ just putting on airs like some folks like to do." "I don't figure it that way, the other one replied, "I kinda think that he uses them

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:30 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude 38
*Hymn
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin (page 4, 1st. prayer)
*Kyrle
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Ecclesiastes Chapter 3
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (frone of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements 131
Hymn
Sermon: "Happiness IS ::: WORK "
Text :: Ecclesiastes Chap. 3:Vs.22
Offering
*Doxology (Trinity)
*Offering Response (Christ)
*Prayer and Lord's Prayer 389
*Hymn
*Benediction
*Threesfold Amen
Postlude

*Congregation Standing

Sunday, September 13, we will welcome
Rev. Jacob Zang as Guest Pastor.

Sunday, September 20, we will again
welcome Rev. Bert Wynn as Guest Pastor.

Trinity Church - The MITE Society will
hold their regular meeting at the home
of Mrs. Joe Rynkiewicz, Friday evening,
Sept. 11, at 7:30 P.M.

Christ Church - Chicken Bar-B-Que today
at the cottage of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hepfer
beginning at 4:00 P.M.

BRING LAMB CHAMPS
Win-A-Chum Class will meet at the home
of Rita Stoner Friday evening, Sept. 11,
at 7:30 P.M.

The Missionary Society of Christ Church
have Sympathy, Birthday, and, Get-Well
cards for sale.

During the month of September, or, until
further notice, will the members of
organizations of both Churches PLEASE
send all announcements to: Mrs. Frank
L. Fry, 582-2820 ?

*WILL BE COMMON UNLESS NOTIFIED
OTHERWISE.*

HEIDELBERG CLASS TUESDAY 7:30

*B**

big words, cause he's afraid that if people knew what he was talking about, they'd know he didn't know what he was talking about." But Paul was not guilty of this ^{TALKING BIG} ~~accusation~~ accusation. He told them that he was not ~~boasting~~ about things he hadn't done, but of the things for which they could see visible proof. He told them if anyone wants to boast let him boast of the Lord. The final sentence gives the clue as to what Paul thinks of self praise. He says, "It is not the man who commends himself that can be accepted, but the man who is commended by the Lord." St. Clement said, "God hates those who praise themselves." In Proverbs we read, "Let the other man praise you, but not your own mouth. A stranger, but not your lips." No one really likes to hear someone spouting off about what they have done and what they can do all the time. But Paul has the answer that can stop anyone. "It is not the man who commends himself who is accepted, but the man who is commended by the Lord." Now you may wonder how this can be the answer and how I have arrived at this decision. If we think about it we begin to realize that the Lord doesn't give out too many commendations. At least we do not know of Him being in contact with us and patting us on the back for what we have done. So the answer is pretty obvious that we should keep living our lives with out the added burden of boasting of ourselves, and we will have to wait for the world to come to receive our praise from God. No amount of bragging or boasting will give us the promised crown of glory. It will be determined by what we actually do in the service of our Lord.

Now once again we may ask, what does this particular letter by Paul say to our generation, or our society? And the answer is very obvious. Paul wrote as though he were talking personally to you and I. Don't you and I act very many times like we were the sole possessors of Christianity? Aren't we concerned and perhaps too much about our appearance, or the appearance we will make on other people? Don't we many times say something behind someone's back and never have the nerve to say it to their face? And don't we like to hear ourselves praised? Can't we like to read about ourselves or hear others speak about us? Maybe, we can be here this morning and again pass the pitchfork back or to the side of us because these things are not in our lives and Don't concern us. I think if we are



Learning and Witnessing

When Jesus Christ takes hold of a person, that person becomes a disciple—that is, one who is ever learning to know his Lord more fully, one who is seeking to discover more and more of the heritage and meaning of his faith. He also becomes an apostle—one who bears witness to Christ's saving power by the faith he professes and the manner in which he lives out his life in the world around him. The Christian Church is the community of those who have become disciples and apostles, learners and witnesses.

It is fitting that these first years of our life as the United Church of Christ should be a time when everyone earnestly tries to find anew what it means to be a member of the Christian community. The theme of the United Church Biennial Emphasis for 1962-1963 is appropriately phrased "The Church, a Learning and Witnessing Community."

Each congregation will make its own plans for using this Biennial Emphasis. The experience of forty pilot churches earlier this year, however, suggests that the following types of action form a good framework for any program:

Official Adoption of the Emphasis by the Congregation. The Minister and official board should think through ways of using the theme; the congregation should make the theme its own by having opportunity to decide upon its adoption.

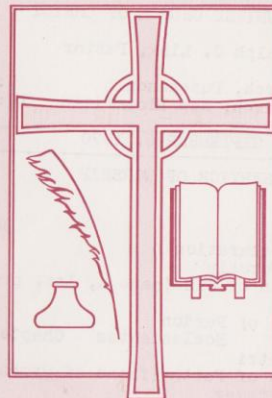
Studying What Learning and Witnessing Mean for Christians. Special study groups for intensive discussion have worked well. So has study by boards and other church organizations. Almost inevitably, people's eyes are opened to new dimensions of personal faith and unmet needs in the congregation's life. Bible study has been very important.

Taking Stock of Present Efforts in Learning and Witnessing. A questionnaire or some form of self-study is useful in appraising the opportunities now offered for Christian learning and what is being done by way of Christian witness.

New Experiences. Study and appraisal should lead ultimately to new ventures in learning and new opportunities for witnessing at home and overseas.

The 1962-1963 Biennial Emphasis is an occasion for review and renewal of our church's life.

Frances Eastman



The Aim and the Method

And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. (Mark 1:17) These words were spoken by a great teacher, and in saying them He defined both the aim of the teacher's work and the method by which he must fit himself to do it. The aim is the making of persons. The method is the surrender of the will to the leadership of the Greatest of Persons.

William Adams Brown

truthful we will find that at least one of these things fits us to a tee, and not just our friends or neighbors. And if we are really truthful we can probably find that almost all of these things fit us. But there is hope for us. We can still have the forgiveness of God. All is not lost. But time must not be lost in our coming to Him. Each time we delay in asking for His forgiveness we may become a little more self satisfied, or boastful, or appearance conscious. We can overcome all of these faults or flaws or whatever you care to call them. Life is not such that we must carry these things through it if we do not care to. But again we must be ready to throw them off. And we can only do it with God's help. For we are human, and being made this way we can overcome an obstacle, only to have another pop up in it's place. This becomes discouraging to anyone. But if we have God at our side, helping us each day, why we can overcome anything. For He gives us the strength. He gives us the ability to go on, when life seems to be the darkest. The challenge is facing us today. Will we accept it and try to reshape our lives in the ways of God? Or will we be content to let ourselves be the same type of people the Corinthians were? Each of us can determine for ourselves alone what we can and will do with our lives. ^{ONCE AGAIN} The choice is ours.

Happiness ~~is~~-Work?

Text: Ecclesiastes 3; 22. "I see there is no happiness for man but to be happy in his work, for this is the lot assigned him. Who then can bring him to see what is to happen after his time?"

This text is rather unusual in that it has three very definite points as every good sermon should have. Usually it requires a bit of searching and seeking to find the points of any given text. This one has them right in its ~~construction~~ sentence structure. The first point is, "I see there is no happiness for man but to be happy in his work." The second point is, "For this is the lot assigned him." And the third is, "Who then can bring him to see what is to happen after his time?"

NO ONE SMILING & SAYING WELL I SEE THIS GUY IS PREHEATING ON HAPPINESS IS -- WORK? CALLED MRS. FRY & HER REACTION. ACCUSTOMED HARD WORK AS MIST IF YOU ARE

Were we to talk to some of the working people today and make the flat statement, "I see there is no happiness for man but to be happy in his work," the statement would be met in several startling ways. Some would laugh. Some would accuse us of being ~~ripped~~ out of our tree. Others would want to know why. The most normal reaction is to question why we should be happy in work. It's bad enough we must work, but do we have to be happy too? What's in it for me? All I'm doing is helping to make someone else rich. These are some of the comments one hears in many places of employment. Work has taken on a very nasty meaning in the years since these words were written. But I do not believe that the real purpose of work has changed. The only change ^{THAT} has taken place ~~is~~ the outlook of certain people.

Why should man be happy in his work? The answer is simple, but it definitely will not please too many working people. The answer is that we should derive a certain satisfaction out of work done well. Whether this be producing something as vegetables or fruit, or producing a finished product on the assembly line. Whether it be just making a little adjustment on a part as it passes by on its way to the next stop, or whether we are in a labor force doing common work with our hands. The ability to do a job and do it well should make man happy. He should feel a sense of pride and accomplishment in his work. He should face each day with a sense of expectancy and not dread. If he doesn't, he may be in the wrong

Salem Lamartine 11:00 8/1168

Processional Hymn 27

*Call to Worship Pg 199

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Mark 12; 18-27

Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

Announcements

Billy Graham crusade Sept. 7th 7:30
1.00 per person

Confirmation class

FLEANNOR HAYN

NANCY WEBER

MRS. MYRNA RITT BIRTHDAY 13TH

ADDRESS ON ROAD.

VISI FORS WELCOME

Offering, Response, Prayer

Hymn 203

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Hymn 471

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

*Postlude

Sadducees, means "Righteous ones". They came mostly from the priestly class and were an extremely influential body. Their doctrines centered on an extravagant reverence for the Law. They excluded all later rewards and punishments and did not believe in life after death. They were very severe in their enforcing of the old Mosaic code.

profession or working in the wrong occupation. We should have this happiness at least some of the time. I know that it is impossible to have it all the time since there are problems that arise that sometimes take the joy out of the work for that day. But somewhere we should be able to smile and find happiness in the job.

James Tyson was a bushman in Australia. When he died he was worth 25 million dollars. He used to say, "The money is nothing, it was the little game that was the fun." When asked what he meant by little game, he replied, "Fighting the desert. That has been my work. I have been fighting the desert all my life and I have won. I have put water where there was no water, and beef where there was no beef. I have put fences where there ^{WERE} ~~WAS~~ no fences and roads where there were no roads. Nothing can undo what I have done, and millions will be happier for it after I am dead and gone and forgotten." This is how one man found happiness in his work, and each of us can find this same happiness if we try.

We may ask what the lot is that has been assigned to us and basically the answer is the same for everyone. The lot assigned to us is that we must work in some capacity or another to provide ourselves and our families with what we need to survive. We have to work in other words and this is what has been assigned to us. Many times we may grumble and complain that we ~~wished~~ we didn't have to work. But life would become quite boring if all we had to do was loaf and be idle. Ask some of those who have retired and they will tell you that the hardest thing to do is to be without something to keep oneself occupied. I was talking to a man ^{LAT OF SUPPLY} who recently retired ^{AND} ~~on 2-2-51~~. I asked him how he liked ~~him~~ retirement and he said that he was beginning to wonder how he ever found time to go to work every day. But through it all we find time to grumble and complain. I suppose that it is part of human nature to do so. As long as the grumbling and complaining do not cause us to hate our work it is ok. But if we become perpetual whiners and grumblers we need to change our attitude toward our job, or change jobs. Someone once observed rather sagely, "A man who keeps his shoulder to the wheel, is rarely seen giving others trouble. He's like a mule in the respect that when he's pulling, he can't kick, and when he's kicking, he can't pull." This is quite true if we stop to analyze it. So if we happen to belong to the whining and groaning class then we need to resolve to change our style and become resolved

Have mercy upon us O Lord, for we are in trouble:
deliver us from the hands of our enemies, and
from those who persecute us.
Let us not be ashamed, O Lord: for we have called
upon you.

In You, O Lord do we put our trust: let us never
be ashamed.

Lord have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

Hear what assuring words our Saviour Christ saith
unto all that truly turn to him: Come unto me
all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will
give you rest. And whsoever cometh to Me I will
in no wise cast out. Amen.

Advent wreath service and fellowship. Donation
of seventy five cents or a dollar to defray cost.
Bring greens, pine cones, wear old clothes. Will
have soup, nothing fancy just fun for all. Tell
all our church people. Make calls this week. Let
them know we are trying something new here for
more family fellowship in the church.

WELCOME VISITORS
CHRISTMAS FRED NOT.

OTHER VISITORS WELCOME

TUESDAY NITE 7:30 HEIDELBERG
CLASS.

ADVENT WREATH 22ND

to the fact that work we must, so we may as well make the most of it. Perhaps if we thought along the lines of the electrician who expressed his thoughts in this way; he said, "That often when he was driving home late at night he looked at the houses he passed and he thought how every light in them meant a family with its joys and sorrows. He would tell himself that the wiring he did helped these people, and when he thought of this he got an extra kick out of his job, because he came to feel that he was being of service. He was not just installing or repairing wires he was lighting homes. What is your job and my job bringing people? We need to take our eyes off our jobs once in a while and to think of the people who are better off because we are doing what we are doing. This should add some purpose to our work and make it seem worthwhile.

Our final point asks the question, "Who then can bring him to see what is to happen after his time?" We could answer this in several ways. I think we all realize that the world will change when we are gone. We have all said at one time or another how our grandparents would be surprised if they could come back and see what has taken place in the last few years. The world has changed very drastically. And it will probably change even more drastically in the coming decades. But we can leave it a better place than we found it, by working and living the very best we can. ^{WOMAN IN} ~~A~~ ~~old lady~~ in Detroit named Mrs. Moulton was a good example of this. She was engaged in her youth to a young man who served in the Civil War. When he was discharged, the Government gave him a chance to take a ~~piece~~ section of land in what was then the wilds of Michigan. ~~and~~ He cut down trees and built a log cabin and then he returned to marry his sweetheart and take her with him. On many an occasion the young bride would hear the bears and other animals prowling around their cabin. Their first son was born and they named him Forest Ray, because he came as a ray of light into the forest. Soon the log house gave way to a farm house and the clearing grew. Four more sons were born to her and one daughter. Her oldest son served as the senior professor of Astronomy at the University of Chicago. Her second son as professor of Mathematics at Northwestern. Her third son a leading businessman in New Mexico. Her fourth son a recognized business and civic leader in Lansing and her fifth son as head of the Brookings Institute in Washington D. C. And her daughter was a school teacher in Detroit.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
 Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP November 8, 1970

The Organ Prelude
 *The Hymn of Praise 1
 *The Call to Worship
 *The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty & Merciful God, the Fountain of all goodness, who knowest the thoughts of our hearts, we confess unto thee that we have sinned against thee, & done evil in thy sight. Wash us, we beseech thee, from the stains of our past sins, & give us grace & power to put away all hurtful things; so that, being delivered from the bondage of sin, we may bring forth worthy fruits of repentance. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Kyrie
 *The Assurance of Pardon
 The Scripture----Mark 12:18-27
 *The Gloria Patri
 *The Collect For The Day (Unison)

Almighty God, we beseech thee, show thy mercy unto thy humble servants, that we who put no trust in our own merits may not be dealt with after the severity of thy judgment, but according to thy mercy; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord, who liveth & reigneth with thee & the Holy Spirit, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer
 The Receiving of Tithes & Offerings
 *The Doxology
 *The Offering Prayer & Lord's Prayer
 The Hymn of Meditation 207
 The Sermon----"Whose Wife Is She?"
 The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response
 *The Benediction
 *The Threefold Amen
 *The Postlude

272

*Donates Congregation Standing

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank Offering & Harvest Home will be observed Nov. 22 in both churches.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joint meeting of Womens Guild Thursday Nov. 12 instead of Friday. Usual Thank Offering Service. Thank Offering boxes may be found in the back of the Church for anyone not receiving them.

Laity Sunday will be observed next Sunday. The laymen will be in charge of the complete service. Mr. William Reed will deliver the message.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Women United Christmas project this year is diapers to be sent to Kentucky. Closing date is Nov. 22. There is a box in the back of the Church for donations for this worthy project.

We pledged to Hoffman Home \$600 three years ago. To date we have little over \$150 paid into this fund. The end of the year we must pay our obligation. May we all search our hearts to contribute to this fine home.

The Family Advent Wreath Fellowship will be held next Sunday Nov. 15 at 3:00 P.M. Please make an effort to attend & let's notify those who have not been in church.

This woman knew what would happen after her time. She and her husband had started a chain reaction that would make the world a better place in which to live. Her children would continue to exert the same type of influence upon it as she and her husband did. To make it better for all of mankind.

And then it is the Christian who can bring him to see what is to happen after his time. We know that there will come a day for departure from this course we are on, to an unknown course. But we are striving to prepare for this when we try to live the Christian life. We know that Christ trod this path and that because of His sacrifice, we can enter into the joy of our Lord when we leave this life. This is what will happen after our time and we cannot escape it. But unlike the man who wrote ~~in~~ in Ecclesiastes long before the advent of Jesus Christ, we have the assurance of what will come. This author did not, and so he questioned. It is up to us to live the Christian life and then we need fear nothing for we can rest in the assurance of Jesus, that He is with us to the very end.

Poem entitled service on Page 226, The Best Loved Religious Poems.

This poem was written by Washington ~~Gladden~~ Gladden. It was also put to music and you probably recognised it as one of our hymns. It tells of the joy of being of service. Of working and trying to gain the attributes of God through continual striving. And it asks only that we may live with our Master. This is the essence of life and it can be found in work if it is done in the realization that all work is ordained by God, and it is to His glory that we work and strive, not merely to earn a living. So let us bear this in mind when next we become discouraged in our labors. Let us remember that we are working for the Lord.

Let us pray.

EXAMPLES OF 2 CHURCHES VCC 350 MEMBERS TOWN OF 500
TRINITY LUTH. LANC. 200 VS TO 2000, 1100 KIDS. WORK BY DEF,
CHERRY & KING.
WE CAN DO IT TOO.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

September 27, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn 21
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin - page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Lesson:
I Corinthians:: Chapter 3
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (Front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 324
Sermon "WHO SPEAKS FOR CHRIST"
Scripture I Cor. Chap. 3: vs. 11
Offering
*Doxology (Trinity Church)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 32
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

*Congregation Standing

An offering envelope for "Neighbors in Need" is attached to our Bulletins this morning. Let's be a good neighbor and contribute.

Visitation Day at Sadler Church Home, Carlisle, is TODAY, Sept. 27, 1970. The program will begin at 3:00 P.M. with Rev. Glenn E. Shultz, Pastor of St. John's Church, Chambersburg, as Speaker.

Trinity Church will hold a Sunday School Board meeting in the Sunday School room, WEDNESDAY, SEP'T. 30, at 8:00 P.M. ALL Officers and Teachers are urged to attend.

Church Women United, New Bloomfield, will hold a business meeting at Trinity United Methodist Church, Barnett St., Monday Sep't. 28, at 8:00 P.M. At this time the program for "Mission Study" will be discussed.

The "Mission Study" sessions of Church Women United will be held in Trinity United Church of Christ, High St., Oct. 7, and Oct. 14 from 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. and Oct. 21, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church, W. McClure St. invites the public to attend their "Open House" at the new Rectory today, Sep't. 27 from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Barnett St., invites the public to an "Open House" at the Parsonage Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The Lutheran Church invites the public to an "Open House" at their Parsonage, W. Main St. Oct. 11 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Whose Wife Will She Be?

Text: Mark 12:23

Before we begin this morning I would like to ask you two questions. I am not asking because I want to see whether you know your Bible or not. Nor am I asking to embarrass anyone. If you choose not to respond then by all means do not respond. I know that I mentioned the Apocrypha several times, but I would like to ask how many had ever heard of the Apocrypha before I mentioned it? Please raise your hands. Now how many of you that heard of it ever read it? Again raise your hands. Thank you. Before we ever studied the Apocrypha, I knew of its existence, however I had never read it, and in fact I have not read all of it yet. My reasons for asking these questions will become evident in a very short time. So please bear with me for a time.

Our Scripture this morning at first glance appears to be another trap which the leading Jews of the day have laid for Jesus. Note how cleverly they approach Him. The Sadducees came to Him we are told, and it is also pointed out that they denied the resurrection. They therefore were the right ones to be asking the question of whose wife the woman would be in heaven if she had had seven brothers in succession for her husband on earth. The Pharisees and the Sadducees had only one thing in common and that was to trap Jesus in His own words so they could get rid of Him. But other than that the two groups were at opposites on everything else. However the thing that is overlooked most often is the fact that the hypothetical question asked of Jesus was not one which these men had made up or imagined, but was actually a story they had read. It was the entire book of Tobit which is found in the Apocrypha. The Sadducees knew these books as did Jesus, so they were actually asking Him about the answer to a story.

Before we go any farther let me point out that the reading of the Bible is not only enjoyable but necessary if we are going to quote it. To quote passages and not know the background surrounding it is to go off half cocked. This is where some people acquire the stigma of religious fanatics. For each book of the Bible there is at least one commentary written on it. I say one to be on the safe side, but I know that for most there are many commentaries that have been written.

So if we want to know the background of a certain book we should make use of the different commentaries available. Many public libraries carry some of these so we need ^{NOT} buy them to read them. Now I am not saying that we should all become Biblical scholars. But if we perhaps want to get more enjoyment out of our Bibles and in fact learn how they were composed, how it came into being, and understand much more when we read, then we should try this method.

Getting back to the Apocrypha, the reason why it was left out of the original Canon or group of books included in the Old Testament was, because the books were not written in Hebrew. The basic stipulation for any book to be included in the Old Testament was that it had to be written in Hebrew. The strange thing about the books ^{OF THE A.P.C.} is that they were probably all written in Hebrew the first time, but for some strange reason the Hebrew versions were destroyed and they were re-written in Greek. ^{EXAMPLE OF RABBI GRANDSON} There have been for instance some Hebrew and Aramaic fragments of the book of Tobit found near the Dead Sea. We should also point out that although the Hebrew Canon would not include these books the Christian Canon did. However they have not all been accepted by all of the Church Fathers done through the years. The word Apocrypha means, "Hidden Books." Fifteen books are listed. 3 History books, 2 Historical novels, and the rest are supplements to other books, such as an addition to Daniel, Esther and several others. These books cover a blank of 400 years from Ezra and Nehemiah to the time of Jesus. These years are called the silent centuries. Luther ^{THOUGHT THEM IMPORTANT ENOUGH AND} included the Apocrypha in his Bible and many pulpit Bibles of the King James Version include it. It can be purchased in a separate book also. I am again using for my background the Jerusalem Bible. What I express are most often my thoughts and my ideas, and I am using many references to the Jerusalem Bible. I do not ask that you accept this or any other Bible sermon. Nor do I ask that you believe everything I believe. In my reading both from the Bible and from other books, I am still seeking the truth, and still shaping my beliefs. If you choose to believe that every word written in the Bible is literally true, then by all means continue to believe this.

The book of Tobit is a historical book, and although it tells some of the history of the Hebrews, it is not told in the chronological order that has

Who Speaks For Christ?

Text: I Corinthians 3; 11 "There can be no other foundation beyond that which is already laid; I mean Jesus Christ Himself."

Introduction;

Paul and the church in Corinth

Divisions and strife, envy, jealousy etc.

Followers of Christ and not Paul or Apollos.

Paul asking, "Who speaks for Christ in Corinth?"

Take imaginary trip with me as I go over actual trip and share it with you.

UNION CHURCH AT NEFFS SELFISH ATTITUDE

Allentown; Town of over 100,000, model for nation

blacks, Puerto Ricans, migrant workers, poor whites etc.

Poor housing job opportunities, food, clothing etc.

Who speaks for Christ in Allentown?

Or go to Nazareth and see congregation of about 1660.

Have handbell, ^{lower, junior} junior, junior hi, youth, mens, senoir choirs.

Listen to 27 mens voices sing anthem for next sunday or,

senoir choir of 40 voices sing, Our God, Our help in Ages Past.

Singing matched that of entire congregation I have worshipped with.

Who speaks for Christ in Nazareth?

Or go to Bethlehem in Christ Church and visit youth in their coffee house.

Sing along with them and listen to them speak of their love for Christ in word and song.

Cong. numbers 1900 and youth only a part of enthusiastic congr.

Who speaks for Christ in Bethlehem?

Or go to womens job corps in Drum, Pa.

Walk with Helen Fox an 18 year old black from the slums of Chicago

listen to her story of childhood, and future plans.

Talk to Mrs. Horn and her concern and care for the girls in her dormitory.

Scared, holding hands, never saw toilet or shower.

75% black girls from all over US

Hazelton Churches do nothing.

Who speaks for Christ in Drum Pa.

Or go to Summit Hill, Pa. and see wonderful people who opened homes and hearts to us for week.

See alive working congr. under leadership of new Seminary grad.

Who speaks for Christ in Summit Hill, Pa. ?

been worked out by Bible scholars. The Jerusalem Bible makes a statement about The books of Judith, Tobit and Esther which explains the scholars viewpoint about these three books which run pretty much in the same vein. "The only explanation of this surprising indifference, (to the chronological order of history), is that the authors are not writing history. No doubt they build on actual events but we have no means of knowing what these were, since the superstructure conceals them. But it is precisely this superstructure that is the real work of the author and conveys his message. The important thing is to discover the exact purpose of each book and to extract the teaching contained in it." Unquote. To which I may add that the last sentence could apply to all the Bible.

The book of Tobit is a domestic story. In the city of Ninevah there lived a man by the name of Tobit. He was exiled there with his tribe of Naphtali. We are told he was a devout, law-abiding, charitable man, who was blind at the time of the story. In Ecbatana lived his kinsman Raguel. This man had a daughter whose name was Sarah and she had been married seven times to seven different bridegrooms who ^{HAD} mysteriously died on their wedding night. Now the reason for their deaths is due to the fact that the demon Asmodeus is in love with Sarah. He cannot tolerate anyone else having her so he lets the wedding take place, but when the bride and groom go into the bridal chamber the groom dies. ~~Now~~ Both Tobit and Sarah beg God to let them die. Tobit because he is blind, and Sarah because of her luckless marriages. But God answers their prayers in His own way. He sends his angel Raphael who takes Tobit's son Tobias safely to Raguel and Tobias marries the girl Sarah, destroys the demon and then returns home and cures his fathers blindness. Now the angel Raphael is not known to Tobias as such, ^{AND LIES TO} for he tells Tobias and his father ^{THEM} that his name is Azarias. Tobit hires Raphael the angel to take his son to Raguel to marry Sarah. So they start off and on the way they came to the Tigris river. They camped there that night, and Tobias ^{WAS SITTING} had set on the river bank to wash his feet and a large fish leaped out of the water and all but swallowed his feet. He shouted and Raphael told him to catch the fish, to cut it open and to take the gall, the heart and the liver and keep them. They traveled to the house of Raguel and after Tobias proved that he was the kinsman next in line to marry Sarah, the arrangements

I least expected to find God or see the evidence of Him at UN
 Mrs. Sally Shelley public relations officer of UNESCO
 United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
 Old story of Village school master in Negare (Kneegare) Desert.
 Girl going blind and 15 dollars.
 Wrote 7 human interest articles and contacted major networks and major wire servs.
 Not new, no violence etc.
 80% of work of UN is this type only hear and see political side.
 Will get copy and devote sermon to UN
 Overwhelmed by New York City
 small town boy in big city
 liked subways
 people on and off like automaton or robots.
 One fellow said liked observe people and most had, "I don't care attitude."
 Others gave some other preacher talk.
 I saw people who need love and understanding, someone to care to show compassion etc
 Did not see or hear evidence of anyone speaking for Christ on N York streets.
 Journey ends at St. Mary Seminary Baltimore
 Joy of sharing, eating sleeping studying worshipping together,
 Hi point of entire trip at Huber Memorial UCC church
 Integrated church and experience had and may never have again.
 Singing, "Christ is Made The Sure Foundation"
 Raised eyes to choir and looking into black faces alongside white faces made me
 see for first time that all along I had been looking through the eyes of a white
 protestant middle class American as many had told us we were.
 Discovered full impact of what church should be.
 Must admit sang rest of hymn through tear filled eyes and around large lump in th.
 Reminded by travels of musical comedy "Music Man" and Professor Hill.
 Comes to town and sings, "You've got troubles, right here in River City."
 We've got troubles right here in _____
 Not race troubles like I saw, but racism in minds and hearts of some people
 Not lot of ~~xxxxxx~~ things common to other cities, but own problems
 pride and jealousy, love of tradition and edifice worship, boys who are nearby
 who need help, aged who need love and concern
 Oh yes, we have troubles enough of our own.
 We can all help our neighbors in need and not just with an envelope and forget it
 Maybe make calls as one member did. Maybe each make a call to friend or neighbor.
 All these things we can and must do but first be willing to speak for Christ.
 Only then can we make the church relevant and a viable institution.
 Who speaks for Christ in Duncannon and N. Bloom. Is it pastor? People? Is it anyone
 at all? We should all pray today and everyday, "Let it be me Lord, let it be me."

were made that they should be married. So they were married and afterward the angel Raphael took Tobias aside and instructed him on what to do after he entered the bridal chamber. His instructions were to take the heart and the liver and to place them on the little bucket of burning incense ^{IN THE ROOM} and the stench of it ^{WILL} rise to the nostrils of the demon Asmodeus and he ^{WILL} flee from Sarah and never come back. So this is what he does and he becomes the first bridegroom who emerges alive from the bridal suite the next day. However Raguel the father being a very practical man took his servants and they dug a grave for Tobias. Then he sent a maid to the bedroom to see if he was ready to be buried, and the maid went and found them both fast asleep. She reported this to Raguel who had his servants fill in the grave again. After staying over for two weeks Tobias took his bride and returned to his father. Before they arrived the angel Raphael told Tobias to take the gall of the fish and rub it on his father's eyes and a white film would come from his eyes and his sight would be restored again. This he did and it happened as the angel had said. Then Raphael told them to thank God for all their blessings, and he told them ^Who he was. They fell on their faces and Raphael told them not to be afraid, and then he arose in the air out of sight. The story ends telling of the death of Tobit at the age of 112. After the death of his mother Tobias returns to Media the land of his wife Sarah. One thing I forgot to say was that after each event Tobias, Sarah, and the others in the story praised God and thanked Him.

Now we ask what can a strange story such as this tell us? The answer is that God and His providence are with us every day. God blesses man beyond measure. We may many times not feel this way. We may feel that life is intolerable, and that our every move is filled with grief and tragedy. We may feel that we are afflicted far beyond what others are. But out of some of the most adverse situations God brings man to the heights. This story this morning is telling us of this. It points out that although these two main characters of this story are afflicted, they are still looked after and cared for by the love of God. All of us are cared for by God like this. There are many people who would disagree with this. But the reason for this is the fact that they are either too reluctant to give God the credit for the guidance He has given them, or else they are too dumb to recognize

Who Speaks For Christ?

Text: I Corinthians 3; 11 "There can be no other foundation beyond that which is already laid; I mean Jesus Christ Himself."

Who speaks for Christ? Paul was telling the people of Corinth that to have strife and fighting among themselves over who was greater, Paul or Apollos was all wrong. He was admonishing them to give this up and seek for unity and that they were to be following Christ and not he or Apollos. This type of thinking has followed down to our own age. These past few weeks I have been privileged to see first hand how some of these quarrels have thwarted the very purpose of the church. I think for instance of a very large cathedral like church located in the Northeast Conference. ^{IN HEFFS PA.} It is supposed to be the largest union church in the world. By union they mean it is used jointly by the UCC congregation and the Lutheran church in the area. Each of the congregations is very large. One has a membership of 1800 and the other 1900. Neither of them will leave and build another church and they will not merge to form one congregation. They are only doing a half job here and they could care less. Who speaks for Christ in this ^{HEFFS}

In Allentown a city of approximately 100,000 people we were able to see how the whites, blacks and Puerto Ricans were able to work together co-operatively to overcome the conditions of prejudice, poor housing, poor job opportunities and so on. They are a model for the rest of the nation to follow. They care and the churches are working together to help the people who need help. ~~How~~ you can see who speaks for Christ. ^{IN ALLENTOWN}

Or go to Nazareth and see there a church of about 1600 people and sit in on their choir rehearsal and you will see another congregation speaking for Christ in the ministry of music. Here they have a Handbell choir, a Lower Junior Choir, a Junior Hi Choir, a youth choir, a Junior choir, a mens choir and a Senoir choir. I wish you could have sat with me and heard the mens choir composed of about 27 men singing the anthem they were to use the next Sunday. Or to hear the senior choir made up of 40 people. ^{SING OUR GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST.} Why their singing matched that of some ^{ENTIRE} congregations where I have worshipped. They have a waiting list for their choirs and those participants are there because they want to serve. ^{WHO SPEAKS FOR CHRIST IN NAZARETH}

Or go to the coffee house of Christ Church in Bethlehem and see there the youth as they speak and sing of Christ in their own little niche of the church. Perhaps I should not say little since the room they have is about as large as our downstairs area. But this is only a part of this large congregation of 1900. ~~But~~ The youth are exuberant and they are having a witness to others in the community. ^{WHO SPEAKS FOR CHRIST IN BETHLEHEM?}

ON GO TO PHOENIX PA & JESUS COMES FOR GIRLS

the Hand of God in their daily lives. This is one of the main causes of ingratitude and unbelief in God. In this respect many people are like the man who wanted to borrow 2000 dollars from his best friend who owned a very prosperous bookstore. When he walked into the store he said, "Joe I have a favor to ask of you, I would like you to loan me 2000 dollars." He said, "Sam I positively can't do that." Then Sam began to recount some of the things that he had done for Joe. He asked him who loaned him ten thousand dollars during the depression to keep his business going? He answered "You did Sam." And who was it who sent your daughter to Florida to be in the warm climate to clear up an infection. He answered, "You did Sam." And when we were out on the lake five years ago and you fell out of the boat, who was it who dove into the lake and at great risk of his own life saved you from drowning? "Why it was you Sam." Then how can you possibly refuse to loan me the money, He inquired? To which he replied, "All the things you say are true Sam, But what have you done for me lately?" Isn't this the way many people look at God? What have you done for me lately God? We forget the blessings of the past. We are prone to overlook the goodness that has been given to us in the past. We don't remember the time when it seemed that everyone had deserted us, but it was God that stayed with us. All of these things are water over the dam. They are past, gone and forgotten. But God is still blessing us and caring for us. We need to thank Him again for all that He has given us. We can never possibly repay what He has done for us. But we can at least show our gratitude and thankfulness. Our thoughts should be directed toward God and in the words of the Psalmist, "Seek the Lord, while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near." Let us seek the Lord all our lives and never come to feel that He has not done anything for us recently. Let us seek the Lord. Let us pray.

Or go with me to Summit Hill Pa. and see the wonderful people of the UCC congregation as they welcomed us into their homes and let us stay with them for the week. We saw Christianity at work in the lives of these people. They have a man who graduated from Lancaster this past May and he has served them as a student and now as a full time man. The church seems alive and vital and it is growing because the people are speaking for Christ, in their lives and in their worship. *WM SPEAKS FOR CHRIST IN SUMMIT HILL, PA.*

The place where I least expected to ^{FIND} ~~see~~ ^{FOUND} God was at the United Nations and it was here that I think I ~~see~~ ^{FOUND} Him more vividly than anywhere else.

A woman named Mrs. Selly Shelley, who is a public relations officer for UNESCO, which means, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, ~~she~~ ^{THERE} told of making a tour of different parts of the world and of some of her experiences. In particular she told of going to the Negare (Kneegare) desert and visiting ~~this~~ one little village ~~there~~, ^{there} There were no cars or other means of transportation, just walking into or out of the village. They have one hut in the center of the village and this is the school. Here a man dressed in white shirt and tie taught all ages of children. Most of the teaching was ^{DONE WITH} ~~learned through~~ a TV set run by battery and it could only pick up French speaking educational channels. So this is how they learned. The day Mrs. Shelley was there the schoolmaster was giving examinations to the class individually. He would hold up a picture of say a eskimo and ask where they lived and so on. One little girl was having difficulty in answering. He explained the girl was going blind. She had been raised by ~~a~~ grandparent and the grandparent had died and then with an uncle and he had died, and now with someone else. But no one cared about her because it cost money for medicine and the clinic was 10 miles or more away and it was uncertain if she could be helped there anyhow. So she was being left to the course of nature. Mrs. Shelley told the man she did not have a lot of money and could not stay there to do anything but she gave him 15 dollars and told him that if they needed more to contact her at the address she gave him and she would try to raise it. She said she received a letter sometime later telling her that the girl was now cured and the money she had given had been able to take care of the expenses involved. She said she came back to the United States and sat down and wrote up seven of these human interest stories. She contacted all of the major wire services and all of the major networks to see if they could use them. She was refused on all counts because they were not news. They contained no violence and were not important enough for anything. Who speaks for Christ? I think this woman with the courage to want to help someone in this modern day age does and I am convinced that the people behind the scenes of the UN are speaking for Christ also. We only see and hear the political end of the UN but 80 percent of the work of it is just like ^{BEHIND THE SCENES THE ONLY} ~~what~~ I have ^{RELATED TO} ~~just~~ told you about. I am supposed to get a copy of the incidents this woman

Salem Lemartine 9:30 8/4/68

Processional Hymn 19
*Call to Worship Pg. 197
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture I John 1st chapter N.E.B.
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

CONSIDER FRI 7:30

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 316
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 262
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

Save us O God, by your name; and judge us by
Your strength.

Hear our prayer, O God: give ear to the words of
our mouths.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the
Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He is
our propitiation for our sins: and not for ours
only, but also for the sins of the whole world.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us
all. Amen.

Advent wreath. No charge but donation of 75¢
or 1.00 will be accepted. Thanks to ladies for
cup and lets all come out for big time. Bring
greens and ribbons if have.

DON'T BUT THANK OFFERING IN
REGULAR OFFERING ENVELOPES.
ENVELOPES IN BACK OF CHURCH.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP November 15, 1970

The Organ Prelude

*The Hymn of Praise 14

*The Call to Worship

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Lord, we beseech Thee, absolve thy people from their offenses, that through thy bountiful goodness we may be delivered from the bonds of those sins which by our frailty we have committed. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture----I John 1

*The Gloria Patri

*The Collect For The Day (Unison)

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by thy Holy Spirit, that being made ever mindful of the end of all things, and the day of thy just judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here, and dwell with thee forever hereafter; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Meditation 205

The Sermon----"The Light"

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response 315

*The Benediction

*The Threefold Amen

*The Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

Thank Offering and Harvest Home will be observed Nov. 22. If you have any offerings please bring them.

Nov. 22 is the closing date for the Church Women United Christmas project. This year money is being collected for diapers to be sent to Kentucky. There is a box in the back of the Church for donations for this worthy project.

This afternoon at 3:00 P.M. we will have our family Advent Wreath Fellowship. We will make our wreathes and then have our meal of soup and crackers. There is no charge for the wreath, but if you care to donate 75¢ or \$1.00 to defray the expenses you may do so. If you have any greens or evergreen branches to use for decorating, please bring them along. We hope all of you will join us in the fun. Wear your old clothes and bring the entire family.

We would like to start a nursery for pre-school children during the worship service. If you are interested in helping with this program, please call Shirley Link--582-4798.

4.

all help if we really want to. We can do like the member of this congregation who made the phone calls to make people aware of church and communion on Sunday. We all have phones and maybe we could all make a call or two this week and invite someone to church next Sunday. We can all spare some of our time to help in the work of the church. Yes, all of these things we can do, but we first must be willing to speak for Christ. Only then can we make the changes in the church that must be made to make it a relevant and viable institution.

Who speaks for Christ in Duncannon and New Bloomfield. Is it the pastor? Is it the people? Is it anyone at all? Our ~~xxxxxx~~ constant prayer should be, "Let it be me Lord, let it be me."

SECRET

FOR RELEASE



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FROM WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE - BOSTON

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

October 4, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn 11
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin - page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Lesson:
Matthew 10: 16-23
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (Front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 299

Sermon "THE CHALLENGE OF CHRISTIANITY"
Text Matthew 10: 16-22

Offering
*Doxology (Trinity Church)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 318
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

A special offering will be taken today for "Neighbors in Need". If you need an envelope please one of the ushers.

Installation of all Church School officers and teachers at Trinity Church will be held during the worship service Oct. 11.

The "Mission Study" sessions of Church Women United will be held in Trinity United Church of Christ, High St., Oct. 7, and Oct. 14 from 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. and Oct. 21, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

The regular monthly Consistory Meeting of Christ Church will be held Monday Oct. 5 at 8:00 P.M.

The Win a Chum Class of Christ Church will meet at the home of Claire Steele Oct. 9 7:30 P.M. Anyone having old linens please bring them to the meeting.

Anyone having announcements or information for the bulletin please call the pastor at 582-4798 before Friday morning of each week.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Barnett St. invites the public to an "Open House" at the Parsonage Sunday, Oct. 4, from 2:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M.

The Light of the World

Text: I John 1; 7

N.E.B. But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, then we share together a common life, and we are being cleansed from every sin by the blood of Jesus His Son.

The progress and growth of light since the beginning of time has been utterly amazing. We know for instance that in the time of Christ candles and oil lamps were the sources of light. We know this because of the reference Jesus Himself made to them in several passages of the New Testament. From the candle, man advanced to the kerosene lantern, and then to gas lights, and finally to electricity. But the one thing that was and is peculiar to each one of these lights is the fact that each one possessed a source or substance that made it light. They each possessed a power or something that caused it to light. And they all consumed something.

Not only was this peculiar to different types of light, but we can make the comparison to our Saviour as He is mentioned in our Scripture today. We said that each light had a source or substance that made it light. The candle had a wax or tallow substance with a wick running through it, and when the wick was lit, the candle gave off light. We can still see this when we use candles for Christmas services, or when we want to be romantic and eat by candlelight. The oil lamps are the same principle with a wick set in the oil and when it is lit it gives off light. Electricity is practically the same with the exception that a filament of wire is used inside of a vacuum tube and the power is run to the bulb by means of wires. These wires in turn are controlled by a switch, which turns it off or on as we desire. The progress in lighting has not yet reached its end, since man has discovered a new source of energy, and this is the atom. There are several experimental power sub-stations now in use with atomic energy being the main source. Electricity is to be found in some of the most remote parts of the earth. You and I do not give too much thought to it, as to where it comes from or what makes it work since it is a very common thing to

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us in our day and age. Just imagine what some of our forefathers would say if they could see the progress that has been made in the last fifty or sixty years. Now all of this talk about lights and lighting is about the physical light, but what of the spiritual light. We read in the Old Testament about the Hebrew people and how time after time they turned from God and worshipped idols. They seemed to be searching for soething. The way they went about it, it appeared as though they were groping in the dark. Basically they were awaiting the promised Messiah, the "Light of Salvation", as David called Him. It wasn't until 1900 and some odd years ^{ago} that this dawn came with the birth of a baby. Here it is significant to note that this birth was heralded by a bright and shining light. The light we call the star of Bethlehem. This was the light the Jews were seeking, but again they rejected it. The strange thing is that they had the light all along, but they never realized it. God was the light. God still is the light. But because of their unbelief God sent another light to show man the way, and this was Jesus. But even with the physical presence of the Son of God, man still did not believe that this was the promised light of the world. Many people today still do not accept either the light or the Light that ^{was} ~~God~~ sent into the world. The trgedy of this is that people simply will not accept what they cannot see. We cannot see electricity except very briefly in a thunderstorm. But does this mean that it does not exist? I can't show you the power that is in the wires to this light, but I can prove it by turning the switch in the back of the Church. However we cannot do this with Jesus. I can tell you about Him and what has been written about Him and what He can and has done in the lives of people, but if you choose not to believe, then this is your choice. The thing that I think these people are really asking, is, How can we get this light? The only answer we can give is that it must be accepted in our lives. We must accept Jesus into our hearts and lives and then we can have this light.

We all know that electricity does not come about by itself. It comes from a source. Something must produce it. In other words it must be generated. To produce physical light we need a generator. But what about spiritual light? What is needed to produce it? Basically there are two things we need, faith and prayer. ~~We discussed faith last Sunday so therefore we will only touch on it briefly. We~~

The Challenge of Christianity

Text: Matthew 10: 16-22

Jesus spoke sometimes in a rather strange way. At least it appears to be strange to us. We read for instance this morning about brother betraying brother, of children rising against their parents and ~~parents~~ parents against children, which is strange talk indeed. Why would He predict such things? To answer this completely cannot be done. We can only try to make a guess at what He was trying to get across. There are those of what we may refer to as radical Churches, who would tell us very definitely that this is a prediction of the world to come. Perhaps it is. But if we look at the writings of Jewish literature, we can come up with some startling facts.

First we must remember that Jesus was speaking mainly to Jewish people. The Jews pictured time as being divided into two ages. The present age which was entirely bad, and the age to come which was the golden age of God. In between was the Day of The Lord. This was the time of destruction, and judgement. In much of their writing and literature they made mention of this fact. We spoke several times of the Apocrypha, which is a collection of books that never made it into the Old Testament. There is also another collection of books that never made it into the Old Testament and this collection is called the Pseudepigrapha. This rather imposing name means nothing more than writings under an assumed name. If we separate the first part pseudo, we can readily see why, since pseudo means false or pretended. There are two books of the New Testament by the way which were written by someone and then the name of another person was used as the title. The books are Jude and II Peter. But in the Pseudepigrapha there are several references made to the betrayal of family and friends. "All friends shall destroy each other." This is stated in 2 Esdras 5:9. "At that time shall friends make war one against another like enemies." 2 Esdras 6: 24. "And they will strive with one another, the young with the old, and the old with the young, the poor with the rich, and the lowly with the great, and the beggar with the prince." This was taken from the book of Jubilees 23: 19. And there are several more we could quote but this should be enough to give us an idea of some of the writing of the Jews.

Now perhaps since Jesus was talking to Jews, and He knew these

need faith because without it we would truly walk in darkness. And we need prayer because by continued prayer we are able to maintain our faith. So you see it is a combination of the two that helps us to generate the light for ourselves and others. In order for us to have faith we cannot have a doubt in our minds about God or His Son Jesus Christ. We must believe honestly, sincerely and implicitly. Jesus tells us to have faith as a mustard seed and we can move mountains. Which reminds me of the story of the woman who wanted to try this, so before she went to bed she prayed that the hill in back of her house would be removed. When she awoke she went to the window and looked out at the hill and remarked, "Well there you are just like I knew you would be when I went to bed." This is definitely the reverse of what Jesus meant. When we think of whole hearted faith we should think of the illustration that is used in the New Testament. It involves the woman who thought that if she could but touch the hem of the Masters robe she would be healed, and healed she was because of her complete faith. This is the faith we all need, but unfortunately we mostly possess a faltering faith.

The other attribute we need is prayer. Here again we are dealing ~~once again~~ with a very great power. If any of us have ever doubted the power of prayer then we need but to read and hear of some of the things that prayer has accomplished. One such incident has ^{CAME} come out of ^A this very congregation. ^{I SERVED.} Most of ~~you probably know of it and how prayers offered~~ ^{THE PRAYERS OFFERED} for a little boy, miraculously brought about an unexplainable change in his condition. We can't prove that prayer ^{HEART ENLARGED & SUNDAY AFT. CHANGES} does these things, but how can we explain away the results after praying? Many people pray and if they feel that they do not get an answer immediately then god does not answer prayer. Or else they only pray when they are in need. In this respect some people are like the little boy whose mother asked him if he prayed when he awoke in the morning. He replied no, because I can take care of myself in the daytime. It's at night that I need watched over. Prayer should be as natural for any Christian as brushing his teeth. We should be able to do it almost by instinct. If we are called upon to pray publicly, we should be able to do so without hesitation. Yet it is surprising how many people become embarrassed when asked. This is really unnecessary since to pray, requires neither a command of the kings

books as well as they, ~~and~~ therefore He used these illustrations to point out what He was trying to say. Perhaps when He told of the things to come He was in effect saying that the Day of the Lord had arrived and was here during the days they were living instead of off somewhere in the distant future. We can only guess what it is He was actually saying, but perhaps some of this background can make us appreciate a little better where some of His thoughts and illustrations came from.

But Jesus also offered something to His disciples and anyone who wanted to follow Him. He offered them a challenge. He let them know that to follow Him was not a trip on the band wagon or the gravy train. He let them know that this path would be filled with danger, it would be filled with humiliation, with frustration and even with rejection. Look around at what the world has to offer. We are surrounded by the pleasure seekers, by the love of comfort and the love of luxury and ease. We are told by statisticians that because of our luxury and comfort our society is a society of bad posture, it is one of lack of physical exertion, and we are subject to the disease of idleness. ^{IT WAS INTERESTING TO NOTE} ~~I was reading~~ when they built the Houston Astros stadium a survey was made and it was found that in order to accommodate the present day public they had to make the seats so many inches wider. This should give us some idea of how our present generation spends most of it's time. We are a society of sitters. But this is not what Jesus promised to His followers. He knew that the sitting down and the ease and the luxury would not be there. ^{BUT} What Jesus offered has not been unique down through history. ^{THERE ARE MANY CASES WE CAN CITE.}

In 1849 after the siege of Rome Garibaldi offered this proclamation to his men, "Soldiers, all our efforts against superior forces have been unavailing. I have nothing to offer you but hunger and thirst, hardship and death; but I call on all who love their country to join with me." They came by the hundreds. Sir Winston Churchill offered his country, "Blood, sweat and tears", after Dunkirk. Pizarro the Spanish explorer gave his little band of men a choice between the safety of Panama and the unknown hazards of Peru. He took his sword and drew a line with it in the sand from east to west. "Friends and comrades," he said, " On that side are toil and hunger, nakedness the drenching storm, desertion and death; on this side ease and pleasure. There lies Peru with it's treasures and riches; here lies Panama

English nor a large vocabulary. Too many people think that praying is long words and big phrases and long prayers. This is perhaps the fault of many preachers who have done this. A prayer can be just as effective and elegant with two short sentences as with two paragraphs. So we should each one start learning to pray easier and more often so that it becomes natural for us.

Then too many of us are like the little girl in Church who attended a wedding. The minister said let us pray and every one bowed their heads. Everyone that is except the little girl. She looked around and asked her mother, "What are they all looking for?" Too often we bow our heads in the attitude of prayer and look for nothing. We should remember the publican bowed his head in the Temple looking for the mercy of God and found it.

Then we know that the light is utilized or consumed. The oil in the lamp is burned up as is the wax from the candle. The filament in a light bulb gradually weakens and breaks and the bulb burns out. This is the physical consumption for light. But what about the spiritual consumption? How can we consume or utilize it? For one thing we cannot consume it or use it up in the same sense that a flame consumes wax or oil. But we can consume it by taking it into our hearts and lives. We can consume it by using it as we live our lives. The comparison between physical light and spiritual light is also different in the fact that physical light consumes something and uses it up, whereas spiritual light is consumed by the individual and is not all used up but is passed out and on to others. This is not only beneficial but a beautiful thing. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" If He is the light for all of the world, then how could His light ever be completely consumed? In the Gospel of John, the author tells us that, "The light shines on in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." This light has been shining since the beginning of time, and man has never been able to overcome it or consume it. Yes Jesus is the light of the world. Perhaps we should say that He is not only a light Himself but He points us to the Greater light which is God. But we must accept Him and we must believe. Otherwise our faith and our prayers mean nothing and are in vain. We need this light in our lives, and we need to try to

and it's poverty. Choose each man what best becomes a brave Castillian. For my part I go South." And he stepped across the line. And thirteen men stepped across with him. Another example is the one of the man named Shakleton who proposed to go to the South Pole. He asked for volunteers and expected to receive no response, or a very scant response at that. He thought not too many would risk ease and safety to cross the blizzards of the Polar ice. However the response was overwhelming. Young and old, rich and poor, educated and uneducated responded. Now these are all human summons to seek the hard road to follow. The challenge which Jesus gave to His followers brought a response from three areas. It brought a response from the state, it brought a response from the Church, and it brought a response from the families of the followers.

Now why would any state government want to persecute the early Christians and the Christians down through the years for that matter? There were several reasons for this. One reason being the fact that in the early church the rumor was prevalent that the Christians were indeed cannibals. This was brought about by the very words of the Sacrament of the Lord's supper, which spoke of eating His body and drinking His blood. Then they were accused of immorality because they called their feast the Agape feast. Agape is the Greek word for love. Maybe I should say that it was one of three words for love. Two of the words were used to express physical and human love, while the third, Agape was used to express the kind of love Jesus taught and spoke of. Therefore calling the Lord's supper the Agape or love feast implied that they were performing a large scale orgy. Then they were accused of being treasonous and disloyal citizens for not taking the oath to the emperor.

Then the reason why the Church itself persecuted Christians is because the church is made up of men and women. Human beings in other words. Therefore there are and have been times when someone inside the church has disturbed the usual peace and serenity of the church. Men like Martin Luther who have come forward to protest the evil and corruption that can creep into the church when it becomes too self-satisfied, and too large and wealthy. In the latest issue of Christianity today is an article about churches who have had their fire and building

let this light into the lives of others.

In the musical Soud of Music, the Mother Superior of the convent in which some of the story takes place, has a saying, when God shuts a door, He opens a window. This is very true, yet, isn't it more of a fact that it has been man down through the ages who has shut the door on God? But then God has indeed opened a window. He opened the window and let in the light of the world, Jesus Christ. The chorus of a hymn we sang in Sunday school tells us, Come to the light tis shining for thee; Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me, once I was blind but now I can see: The Light of the world is Jesus. Let us come to that Light today, and find ^{there} ~~xxx~~ peace and comfort for our weary lives. Let us walk in that light each day of our lives. Let us pray.

Call to Worship: Now it is time to wake out of sleep, for now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ISAIAH 9: 2 B 607. JOHN I: 1-5 814
Advent wreath lighting;

We light the first candle for HOPE.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name.

Prayer: Almighty and Everlasting God, who orderest all things in heaven and earth, and who didst make all ages a preparation for the coming of Thy Son; prepare us by Thy Holy Spirit for the coming of Him Whom Thou dost send, that we may behold His glory and receive the fulness of Thy blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

merciful Father, who in thine infinite love hast given thy Son to take away our sin, hear our confession; absolve us from our guilt, and so renew us by thy Holy Spirit that we may henceforth live unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salem Lemartine (9:30)

*Processional Hymn 100

*Call to Worship
Unto Thee, O Lord do I lift up my soul: O my God

I trust in Thee; Let me not be ashamed: let not mine enemies triumph over me; Yea, let none that wait on Thee

be ashamed. Show me Thy ways, O Lord; teach me

Thy paths.

*Confession of sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Luke 1: 26 - 35

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Prayer and Response LE CHOR

Offering, Response, Prayer

Choir Anthem

Announcements

MEET WITH CONSISTENT PRES OR RULING ELDER

ENVELOPES FOR GREENVILLE HOME

LAPLES AID IS TAKING COLLECTION FOR

GREENVILLE

MRS. LENA ORCHMAN IS IN CHARGE

CONSIST. 7:30 TO MORNING EVENING

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12/3/67

Call to Worship:

Now it is time to wake out of sleep, for now
is our salvation nearer than when we first
believed.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

light our first candle for HOPE. For unto us
child is born, unto us a Son is given.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood
and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly
lean on Jesus name.

*. John Emerton (11:00)

Prelude

Hymn Stand on last stanza 384

*Call to Worship

Into Thee, O Lord do I lift up my soul: O my God

I trust in Thee; Let me not be ashamed: let not mine

enemies triumph over me: yes let none that wait on

Thee be ashamed. Show me Thy ways, O Lord: teach me

Thy paths.

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading #1 Page 555

Hymn 93

Scripture Luke 1: 26 - 35

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Prayer and Response

Choir Anthem

Offering, Response, Prayer

Announcements

MEET WITH COMMUNITY PREL OR ROLLING ELDER

CHOIR PRACTICE 7:15 WED.

*Hymn 97

Sermon

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 126

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

12/3/17

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP November 29, 1970

The Organ Prelude

*The Hymn of Praise

91

*The Call to Worship

Almighty and everlasting God, we know you forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in each one of us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission, and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture----Luke 1:26-35 *LUKE 2:8-20*

*The Gloria Patri

97

*Hymn

The Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Advent Wreath Lighting

The Hymn of Meditation 92

The Sermon----Advent Revelation:

"To The Shepherds"

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response

88

*The Benediction

*The Threefold Amen

*The Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We want to thank everyone who helped or participated in any way with the family advent wreath fellowship. Those of you who were not there missed out on a very rewarding experience. We hope you will make plans to join with us next year in this service.

HAVE FAMILY WREATH TODAY

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A congregational Christmas dinner will be held next Sunday Dec. 6 at 6:30 P.M. An offering will be taken to go to the Perry County Child Care Service.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday Dec. 6th we will meet at the church at 1:00 P.M. to decorate the church. The women of the church will place the "Chrismos" on the Christmas tree. We will have ice cream and cookies later. Come and join us. *HAVE DINNER WITH US.*

WE ~~THANK~~ ESPECIALLY THANK ~~MRS. ROY SNYDER~~

MRS. GEORGE AERENBAUGH

MRS. ROY SNYDER

FOR BEAUTIFUL ADVENT WREATHS

1st Sunday of Advent

Text.: Luke 2:11.

Today is the first Sunday in Advent and although we have heard the story of the, "Good News" many times there are some points and legends concerning this birth that perhaps some of us have never heard before. Therefore for the next three Sundays of Advent our sermons shall be concerned with some different information. At least I hope that it is new to most of us. These sermons shall be divided into three categories. ^{ADVENT REVELATION} Today we shall be concerned with where Christ was born and the shepherds who came to see this baby. ^{ADVENT REVELATION: TO THE SHEPHERDS} Next Sunday we shall be concerned with the Magi or the three Wise Men. The following Sunday we shall deal with the events surrounding Herod. These are the three main events that touched the early life of this child

Christ was born in Bethlehem which was a little town located six miles to the south of Jerusalem. The ancient name of Bethlehem was Ephrath or Ephrata. The name Bethlehem is taken from two Hebrew words which mean, "The House of Bread", which was very apropos since it stood in a very fertile countryside. It is rather ironic that Christ should be born in a place which means, "House of Bread." Many times during His ministry He spoke of bread. He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone," and on another occasion He said, "I am the bread of heaven." He also took a few loaves of bread and it was enough to feed a large multitude of people. When He ate what we refer to as, "The Last Supper", He took bread and when He had given thanks He broke it and said, take eat this is My body which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of Me. So then bread becomes symbolic for us. Because it becomes the symbol of Christ's broken body. ~~But sitting back to~~ Bethlehem, the town was situated high on a grey limestone ridge which was more than 2500 feet high. The houses in Bethlehem are built on the slopes of this limestone ridge and it was a common practice for them to have a cave hollowed out below the house which was used as a stable. Now here is where the Biblical story and what we have pictured in our minds differ. Most of us think of a

stable as a wooden structure of some sort such as we see around here on a farm. But it could very well have been a cave where Christ was born. To this day such a cave is shown as the birthplace of Christ. The cave is located in Bethlehem and the Roman Catholic Church of the Nativity is built above it. This particular cave has been shown as the birthplace of Christ for a very long time. The Roman Emperor Hadrian built a shrine to the heathen god Adonis above it to desecrate the place. But when the empire became Christian, the first Christian Emperor Constantine built a great Church there and it is the Church that still stands there today. A man named H. V. Morton tells of visiting this Church. "He said he came to a great wall and in the wall there was a door, which was so low even a dwarf would have to stoop to enter it.; and through the door and on the other side of the wall was the Church. Beneath the high altar of the church there is a cave. When the pilgrim descends into it he finds a little dark cavern about fourteen yards long and four yards wide lit by fifty three silver lamps; and in the floor there is a star and around it a Latin inscription: Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary. "

This brings us to the shepherds and why did God choose to reveal the birth of His Son to them? We can't answer this question, because we cannot fathom the workings of God. But still we ponder this question because of the commonness of these men. To be a shepherd was no great distinction by any stretch of the imagination. Comparing it with the occupations of today it would probably ~~compare~~ ^{BE COMPARABLE} to the work of a laborer. It required no real talent. About the only thing it did require was a love of being outdoors and a love for animals such as sheep. But while we are pondering this we must also ask the question Who did Christ minister to? Was it the wealthy? Did he rub elbows with the high society, or hob nob with all the socially prominent people? No. It was to the poor and needy that He ministered. It was the poverty stricken and the outcasts and those rejected by society that He helped. Therefore it is logical that He should be revealed to the common people such as the shepherds. Imagine for a moment the surprise it must have been for these men. Just picture in

your mind how this happened and came about. Here are a group of men, sitting on the hillside watching their flocks of sheep. Which reminds me of an article printed in the Readers Digest several years ago. It told some of the humorous incidents dealing with children at Christmas. The one incident involved a class of children in which the teacher instructed them to draw a picture having something to do with Christmas. She walked around the room looking at each child's paper until she came to this one little boy. She couldn't figure what it was he drew. The picture looked like a fat baby. When she asked if this was the Christchild he replied, "No it's round John Virgin like we sing about in 'Silent Night.'" The incident involving the shepherds also happened in a classroom. The class was singing a Christmas carol, but the teacher detected strange words being sung by someone. So she walked around the room as they sang it again. She found the young lad and asked him to repeat the words. He was singing, "While shepherds washed their socks by night, instead of while shepherds watched their flocks by night." But this job of watching sheep got pretty lonely especially during the long hours of darkness. So it was customary for several shepherds to combine their flocks and graze them all together. This not only made it easier because there were several men to look after the sheep, but it also provided them with companionship. So it was on this memorable night when suddenly there appeared before them an angel and they were surrounded by light. They were told that the Messiah had come in the form of a baby. At first they were terrified. But when the angel reassured them their curiosity was aroused. So they came to see this Messiah. Think of the joy it must have been to these men to see this baby and realize that He was the long awaited Messiah. We are not told of ^{THE} ~~what~~ ^{OF} nationality [^] these men ~~were~~, but they were probably Jewish. If this were the case they were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah as everyone else was. It is also significant to point out that Christ identified Himself with shepherds several times during His ministry. He said, "I am the good shepherd." He told His disciples to feed His sheep making reference to Himself as a shepherd. He also told a parable of a shepherd going out and look-

ing for one sheep that was lost. Now after these men saw this baby we are told that they returned glorifying and praising God for what they had heard and seen. Isn't this the typical reaction? When any one of us hears good news we can't wait to pass it on to our friends. Today we have the telephone to do this and we don't have to go out in the highways and byways to spread our good news. But we too should be spreading this "Good News" of Christ. Most of us could say that we belong in the class of these shepherds. It's true we don't watch sheep, but most of us are working people such as they were.

This "Good News" is being brought to us once again as it is every year. Will we come to pay homage to Him and return to our homes and our everyday lives and remain silent? Or will we join with the shepherds glorifying and praising God?

One of the verses of the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" tells of this wonderful birth in the most appropriate way.

Hoe silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heaven.
 No ear may hear His coming;
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him still,
 The Dear Christ enters in.

May Christ enter into our hearts this day. Let us pray.

St. John's Emmenton 9:30

12/10/67

Prelude

Hymn (Stand on last stanza) 44

Call to Worship

Behold thy salvation cometh. The Lord shall cause
His glorious voice to be heard: and ye shall have
ladness of heart.

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading #3 Page 557

Hymn 378

Scripture St. Matthew 2: 1-12

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Prayer and Response

Anthem

Offering, Response, Prayer

Announcements

PRAYER, SERMONS

*Hymn 252

*Sermon

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 99

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

Calem Lamartine 11:00

12/10/67

*Processional Hymn 99

*Call to worship

Behold Thy salvation cometh. The Lord shall cause
His glorious voice to be heard: and ye shall have
ladness of heart.

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Scripture St. Matthew 2: 1-12

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed 106/11

*Prayer and Response

Anthem

Offering, Response, Prayer

Announcements

PRAYER, SERMONS

CHRISTMAS SERVICE 7:00 P.M. DEC. 17TH

OFFERING WILL GO TO GREENVILLE CHILD HOME

DEC. 31ST COMMUNION REV. NICK.

9:30 SERVICE

ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS DEC. 17TH

*Hymn 91

*Sermon

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 123

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

Call to Worship:

"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all flesh shall see it together for the mouth
of the Lord hath spoken it."
O Eternal God who dwellest in mystery and eternity
and are far beyond our thought and comprehension,
I rely Thou hast revealed Thy glory in the face of
Jesus Christ and hast given us the responsibility
to be sure that all flesh shall see it together.
Amen.

Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true
heart and confess our sins unto God our Father,
beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
to grant us forgiveness, Let us all pray;

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

"There shall come forth a shoot out of the stump of
Jesse, and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon
him." "The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the
spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of know-
ledge of the fear of the Lord."

"He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide
by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he
shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for
the meek of the earth." Amen.

Advent Wreath; We light the first candle for HOPE,
We light the second candle for JOY, For Mary
brought forth her first born Son and laid Him in a
manger.

"O Hope of every contrite heart, O Joy of all the
meek, To those who fall how kind Thou art; How good
to those who seek.
Jesus our only Joy be Thou, As thou our prize wilt
be; Jesus be Thou our glory now, and through eter-
nity. Amen.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 6, 1970

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 93
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Most aware are we that all things have not
been accomplished that we are both slothful
in good and unlettered in thy word and that
our dismay is exceeded only by our apathy.
Too easily would we express the words begging
for forgiveness and thou knowest the truth of
our feelings that we are not really repentant
and we have not amended our ways. Therefore
O God--make us more aware of thy majesty and
more dependent upon thy counsel. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture----Matthew 2:1-12
*The Gloria Patri
*Hymn 96
The Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Advent Wreath Lighting
The Hymn of Meditation Trinity 100 Christ 90
The Sermon----Advent Revelation:
"To The Magi"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 116
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude
*Denotes Congregation Standing

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

A congregational Christmas dinner will be held
this evening at 6:30 P.M. Please bring a
covered dish or two and your own table service.
An offering will be taken to go to the Perry
County Child Care Service.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon at 1:00 P.M. we will meet at
the church to decorate for the Christmas
Season. We will have our "Chrismon" Service
also. We will have ice cream and cookies
later. Come and join us.
COOKIES BRING SOME
Consistory will meet Monday at 8:00 P.M.

Hidelberg Fellowship Class will meet Tuesday
Dec. 8th at 7:30 P. M. at the church.

The Missionary Circle will meet at the home
of Mrs. Hester Steele Tuesday evening Dec.
8th at 7:30 P.M.

Esther Spease will entertain the "Win A
Chum Class" at the home of Marilyn Fisher
on Dec. 11th at 7:30 P.M. Claire Steele
will be the leader.

*BRING OR SEND REQUESTS IN ABOUT
ORGAN.*

*FAMILIES OF LUT MEMBERS
CHURCH SAT. 9:30*

A Russian legend has it that an old woman who was at work in her house when the wise men came ~~xxxxxx~~ from the east on their way to Bethlehem. They said to her, "Come with us. We have seen his star in the east and go to ~~worship~~ him." She said, "I will come, but not now. I have much work to do and when that ~~s~~ finished I will follow and find him." But her work was never done and so she did not go. But she is still living and still searching for the child. And though she did not find him out of love for all of his children she takes care of them. It is believed that she fills all the stockings and trims the tree on Christmas morn. And the children awake and cry Baboushka has been ~~here~~. The legend says, that because she did not find the child she believes that each little one she feeds and warms she may find the Christ child.

G. K. Chesterton wrote of three modern wise men. They each came to the city of Peace with their gifts. The first brought gold - cold and yellow which buys most of the pleasures of the world. The second brought the modern scent of chemistry with its power of drugging the consciousness, controlling the soil and the surplus population. The third brought myrrh - which symbolizes death; it was a fissioned atom which could turn any city into another Hiroshima. They met Joseph at the gate but he would not let them in. What could we possibly bring other than these things that buy and control they asked. He whispered in their ears and they all turned away. They had forgotten the child.

The Wise Men

Text Matthew 2:2

In our Scripture this morning we read about the arrival of the men we refer to as, "The Wise Men." The actual number of them is not given, not only in Matthew but it is not found in any other part of the New Testament either. In fact the only reference is found in Matthew. Early legend has it that there were twelve men who came to see Christ. We probably all have either been taught or heard that there were three wise men. This may or may not be true. The reason given for ~~the~~ this is because of the threefold gift which they brought to Christ. Maybe at this point we should clarify what may be misconceptions to some of us. To begin with many people think that the Gospels which are the books that tell the life of Christ were written while Christ was alive and while he was about the work which he did. This is not true. The Gospels were written after His death. The first Gospel written was Mark and it was written around 65 to 67 A.D. Then follows the Gospel of Matthew which was written around 80 A.D. The reason why nothing was written before this is because almost all of His followers expected Christ's ~~second~~ coming to take place shortly after His ascension. At least most of them expected it during their lifetime. Therefore they felt no need to have a written record. So they passed the life of Christ on by word of mouth. I think most of us are probably familiar with the game where a sentence is whispered in someone's ear and on down the line until it reaches the last person. Usually the last person's interpretation is unrecognizable from what was originally said. With the telling of a story the same thing holds true. Each time it is told someone adds a little embellishment here and a little there and before long the story is all out of proportion. Now I am not disputing the Bible. I still believe very firmly that these books were written by inspired men of God. But what I am saying is that perhaps some of these events may have become enlarged a little between the time they occurred and when they were written down. Such may have been the case with the story of the Magi. So let us just for the sake of argument agree the number of wise men was three. and let it go at that.

After all it really is immaterial whether there were three or a hundred. The important thing is that they came into the life of this child and left an impact upon Him.

This name, "Magi" which is given to these men is a very difficult name to translate. The Greek historian Herodotus relates that, "The Magi" were originally a Median tribe. The Medes were a part of the Persian Empire. They tried to overthrow the Persians and substitute the power of the Medes. They failed to do this. From that time on, "The Magi" became a tribe of priests and ceased to have any ambition for power. In Persia they were almost exactly what the Levites were in Israel. They became the teachers and instructors of the Persian kings. They were also in charge of the sacrifices and no sacrifice could be offered unless one of the Magi was present. Thus they became men of holiness and wisdom. They were also skillful in philosophy, medicine, natural science, soothsaying and interpreting dreams. Later on the name developed a lower meaning and meant little more than a fortune teller. But at their very best these men we are speaking of today were good men who tried to be holy and who looked for the truth.

The star these men followed is another mystery that cannot be solved. In those days everyone believed in Astrology. It was believed that the future could be foretold by the stars. It was also believed that a man's destiny was settled by the star under which he was born.

Around 11 B. C. Halley's comet was visible. Around 5 B. C. there was a conjunction or a meeting on the same longitude of Saturn and Jupiter. In the years 5 to 2 B. C. on the first day of the Egyptian month Mesori, the dog star Sirius rose at sunrise and shone very brilliantly. The name Mesori means, "The birth of a prince," and perhaps to these astrologers this star would mean the birth of a great king. These men were professionals at watching the heavens and something in the heavens spoke to them of the coming of a king. There is a legend told about the star that these men followed. It tells that after the star's work of guidance was completed it fell into the well at Bethlehem and

it is still there. It can still be seen sometimes but only by those whose hearts are pure.

The gifts which these men brought to the Christ child are significant also. Gold was the gift for a king. It was acclaimed as the only gift suitable for a king. Christ was and is ~~only~~ a King but he was also called, "The Prince of Peace". So being of royalty, gold was very appropriate as a gift to Him. Frankincense was a sweet perfumy incense that was used in the Temple worship and in the Temple sacrifices. This would be a gift suitable for a priest, and Christ was just that. The Latin word for priest is Pontifex and it means bridge builder. This is what Christ did. He built a bridge from man to God. He made it possible that man can come to God through Him. Myrrh was sort of a spice that was used in the embalming of the dead. This may seem like a rather strange and inappropriate gift to bring to a new born infant. But if we believe that Christ was the one who was to suffer and die for mankind, then this gift is not only appropriate but it is symbolic. This was a child that actually was born to die. These then were the gifts brought to Christ by these wise men. Gold for a king, Frankincense for a priest, and Myrrh for a Saviour. Legend has it that these men were named, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Melchior was an old man with a long grey beard and it was he who brought the gift of gold. Caspar was young and beardless with a ruddy countenance and he brought the gift of frankincense. Balthasar was swarthy with a new grown beard and he brought the gift of myrrh. It is also said that Marco Polo went to Persia and tried to find out all he could about these wise men and he found out that there was a great difference in their ages. A man named Gascoyne Cecil tells a story of the visit of the wise men to Bethlehem. Quote, "When they came to the stable they went in one at a time. First the old man went in and he found an old man who talked to him. Next the middle aged man and he found a teacher his own age who spoke to him. When the young man went in he found a young prophet. They met together outside and marvelled, how was it that they had come to see a child but they didn't find a child but three different men of different ages? The old man had

found an old man, the middle aged had found a middle aged man and the young had found a young man. So they took their gifts and went in again and instead of finding three different men they found a baby. Each sees in Christ the reflection of his own condition."Unquote.

What can we bring to Christ and how will He appear to us?
 Will He seem to be an old man? Or young? Or middle aged? He will appear as the timeless, ageless, unchangeable Saviour if we come to Him and serve Him as we should. As to our gifts, what could we possibly give to Him? Christ doesn't want our possessions or our material goods. He wants us. Our selves, wholly and completely. This is the only gift we can possibly bring to Christ. The words of a familiar hymn state, "Living or dying Lord, I ask but to be thine: My life in Thee Thy life in me, makes heaven forever mine." Let us pray.

I was asked last Sunday if it was not true that the Jews also had a candle lighting observance near or during Advent. I did a little research and found that they do indeed. Their observance is called "Hanukkah". This is a holiday where the Jews celebrate the first great victory for religious freedom won by the Jews more than 2000 years ago. Judah Maccabee organized the Jews into an army and defeated the Syrian-Greeks. In case you have never heard of this Jewish History it is found in the Apocrypha, which is a collection of books not found in all Bibles. If you have an old family Bible at home perhaps you will find it there. Many old pulpit Bibles have it. Sometime in the future I shall preach a sermon using the Apocrypha for background. But getting back to this Jewish holiday, when Judah Maccabee finally defeated his enemies(it took 3 years to do so) he led his troops into Jerusalem. There they cleansed the Temple of all pagan objects of worship and made it fit to worship God again. Jewish legend tells that when they were cleaning out the Temple the men found only one jar of holy oil, only enough to keep the Eternal light before the Holy Ark burning for one day. Miraculously this one jar burned for eight days. Judah Maccabee proclaimed an 8 day holiday to celebrate the rededication of the Temple to God. The big event of Hanukkah is the lighting of the candles. Eight candles are placed in a candlestick called a Menorah. The father of the family lights one candle each night until finally all 8 candles are lit. This is done with the entire family present. Each time that the candles are lit a helper candle called a Shamoe is used. This holiday is celebrated anywhere between the end of November through December into January. This depends upon the year. How this time is arrived at I was unable to ascertain. This year it is being celebrated between December 8 to the 15th. This is the year 5727 to the Jews.

St. John's Lenten 9:30 12/24/67

Prelude

*Hymn 154

*Call To Worship (Pg 7 Book of Wor.)

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Reading #7 Page 561

Hymn 155

*Scripture St. Luke 1:26-35 & 2:1-20

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Prayer & Response

Anthem

Offering, Response, Prayer

Announcements

*Hymn 118

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 120

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

Salem Lamentine 11:00 12/24/67

*Processional Hymn 112

*Call to Worship (Pg 7 Book of Wor.)

*Confession of Sin

*Assurance of Pardon

*Scripture St. Luke 1:26-35 & 2:1-20

*Gloria Patri

*Apostles Creed

*Prayer & Response

Anthem

Offering, Response, Prayer

Announcements

*Hymn 118

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 120

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's
lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping.

Why lies he ~~thus~~ in such mean estate where ox and
ass are feeding? Good Christian fear! for sinners
here the silent world is pleading.
So bring him incense gold and myrrh, come peasant
King to own him, The king of Kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard
and angels sing: Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe the Son of Mary.

Call to Worship:

Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy
which shall be to all people. For unto you is born
this day in the city of David a saviour, which is
Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace, good will toward men.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for he hath cared
for his people and wrought them redemption. He has
raised up a strong saviour for us in the house of
his servant David as he promised of old by the lips
of his prophets. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Advent wreath lighting:

Beloved let us love one another: for love is of
God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and
knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God;
for God is love.

We light the first candle for Hope, we light the
second candle because of our JOY. We light the
third candle for PEACE. We light the fourth candle
for LOVE.

For sin is love, not that we loved God, but
that he loved us and sent his son into the world
to be the propitiation for our sins.

Prayer: O God, we are able to love because you loved
us. Help us to share our love with other people and
may we live love all of our lives. Help us to walk
close to you and as that blessed day draws nearer
keep our thoughts upon your love as shown in the
gift of your Son. Amen.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 20, 1970

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 112
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
O God of hope and love who dost wait for
us even when we forget thee, O God of truth
and peace who dost prepare a revelation for
us even when we cannot comprehend thee, O
God of grace and mercy who doth call us to
respond to thee even when we wander from thee,
we confess, we are confused by being so busy,
we confess, we are too much involved in prepa-
rations, we confess, we are tired of man made
schedules, we confess, we tend to forget thee
in our celebration, forgive us, forgive us
O God. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture---Matthew 1:18-23--Luke 1:26-38
*The Gloria Patri
*Hymn 101
The Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Advent Wreath Lighting
The Hymn of Meditation 102
The Sermon---Advent Revelation:
"What Child Is This?"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 120
*The Benediction
*The Threecfold Amen
*The Postlude

We will have our children's Christmas Pro-
gram this evening at 7:30 P.M. Please plan
to attend.

The Poinsettia on the Altar is placed in
memory of John and Hester Myers by the family.

The Thank Offering amounted to \$31.25.
The offering taken for the foster children
amounted to \$38.70.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Eby proudly announce the
arrival of their first grandson. The proud
parents are Samuel and Judy Eby. The red
rose on the Altar is in honor of this happy
occasion.

The Link family wants to take this opportunity
to express our thanks to the congregation for
their many cards and well wishes for this
Holiday Season. We also extend our well
wishes to each of you, not only for a very
Merry Christmas but for a healthy and pros-
perous New Year. May God richly bless each
of you.

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE DUNCANNON
THURSDAY DEC 24TH 7:30 P.M. YOU ARE
ALL WELCOME.
PENN. GEN. NEWS FOR DECEMBER. PLEASE
PICK UP COPY. ALSO THE CONFERENCE MIN.
FOR EACH CONGREGATION. IF NOT YET
PICKED UP DO SO PLEASE.
ENVELOPES FOR 1971 PICK UP.
JAN. 10TH COMMUNION REV. GOLD.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christmas Program December 20, 1970

Call to Worship

*Hymn

107

Scripture----Luke 2:1-20

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Christmas Story presented in song

Lower Junior, Junior and Junior High Depts.

Song----Nursery Department

Dedication of the Christmas Tree

Lower Junior Dept.

Offering

A Christmas Message

Lower Junior, Junior and Junior High Depts.

The Lighting of the Candles

*Hymn

108

*Benediction

*Denotes Congregation Standing

Everyone is invited to remain after the service for refreshments in the Social Room of the Church.

The offering this evening will be sent to Hoffman Homes.

We would like to thank everyone who in some way or another has helped or participated in the service tonight.

Those who participated in the program tonight were:

Scripture----Dale Link

Piano----Mrs. Helen Lyons

Prayer----Neva Reich

Lower Junior Department

Beth Fry Sarah Lyons

Nancy Link Michael Swegar

Patti Pearce, Teacher

Junior Department

David Fry Anita Serger

Tina Magee Donald Swegar

Earl Reick Daniel Snyder

Dale Link, Teacher

Junior High Department

Lloyd Link

Neva Reich

Mr. Eugene Eby, Teacher

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.
THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 20, 1970

The Organ Prelude
*Congregational Hymn 100
Prayer----Mark Bornman
Scripture----Matthew 1:18-23--Luke 1:26-38
Welcome----Sandra Liddick
Song--"Away in A Manger"
"Here We Come To Bethlehem"
Nursery, Kindergarten, Primary Depts.
Poem----Jodi Morris
Poem----Gerald Morris
Exercise--"Five Stars"----Kindergarten
Poem----Dennis Shatto
Poem----Mark Lightner
Poem----David Sloan
Song----Choir
Poem----Jane Kiner
Poem----Gina Steele
Poem----Tom Patterson
Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
Advent Wreath Lighting
The Sermon----Advent Revelation:
"What Child Is This?"
Poem----"Good Bye"----Tim Patterson
Congregational Hymn 105
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

The Christmas Party will be held after Confirmation at 6:30 P.M. tonight.

The lovely Poinsetta's that grace the chancel this morning are placed there in loving memory.

Mrs. Wolpert in memory of Erman.

Mrs. Mary Louise Dowdrick in memory of Honer.

Mr. and Mrs. William Borcharding in memory of Elmer Holland.

Mr. and Mrs. George Achenbach in memory of Florence Carnes.

The Congregation is invited to the wedding of Susan Colleen Gamber and John Wayne Hostetter on Sunday, December 27, 1970 at 2:30 P.M.

The Link family wants to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the congregation for their many cards and well wishes for this Holiday Season. We also extend our well wishes to each of you, not only for a very Merry Christmas but for a healthy and prosperous New Year. May God richly bless each of you.

CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE DEC. 24TH 7:30.
COME & WORSHIP WITH US.

NEW CENT. NEWS PLEASE PICK UP.

JAN. 10TH COMMUNION REV. GOLD.

What Child Is This?

Text Matthew 1:23

What child is this, is the title of a beautiful Christmas carol. What child is this was asked by the shepherds, by the wise men, and ~~this year~~ ^{too} we ask the same question. As we ponder this birth once again, we could arrive at several answers to this question, "What child is this?" The answer I am thinking of is a miraculous child. He was born miraculously, He lived miraculously, and He died miraculously. His birth was probably the most unique if not the strangest ever recorded. In order to understand the full implications of this birth we need to delve into some of the background surrounding it.

The customs of the Jews differ quite a bit from those we observe. When we read the accounts of the advent of Christ we find that Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Then we read that Joseph wishes to divorce her because she is going to have a child. To us this seems strange. But in the Jewish custom this is not strange at all. The Jewish marriage procedure followed three steps. The first step was the engagement. This engagement sometimes took place when the couple were only children. This was usually handled by the parents, or through a professional match maker. ^{BROOKLYN PLAY FID. OR ROLF MANSION MATCHMAKER} Often the couple involved never saw each other. Marriage was considered too serious a step to be left to the dictates of the heart or human passion.

Next there was the betrothal. This could be called the ratification of the engagement they entered into. At this point the engagement could be broken if the girl were unwilling to go through with it. But once the betrothal was entered into, it was absolutely binding. It lasted one year. During this time the couple were known as man and wife, even though they didn't have the rights of man and wife. The betrothal could only be dissolved by divorce. The third stage was the marriage. This took place at the end of the year of betrothal.

Can you picture in your mind how it would have been if

at this birth the news media we have would have been available. The scandal angle would have been played up to it's fullest. Here is a girl who was only betrothed to a man and she is about to have a baby. What headlines this would make. But the unusual or unique thing about this birth is the fact that we are told she was a virgin. This belief has been one of controversy ever since it occurred. Theologians and Biblical scholars have argued both pro and con about this event. Even scientists have given their view point and basically it is one of disbelief, because such a birth is biologically impossible. Whether we accept the virgin birth or reject it will not be of earth shattering importance. We as Protestants and United Church of Christ members in particular, are free to make up our own minds. But I believe this is one doctrine of the Church that we need to be very definite about. I firmly believe that it is something which we need to believe really happened as stated. There are several reasons for this belief which are very important to us as professing Christians.

The first and main one is that if Christ were not born of a virgin then He was and is not the true Son of God. This would make Him nothing more than an ordinary man and simply just another illegitimate child. This may sound irreverent, irreligious, sacrilegious, call it what you will, but nevertheless this can be the only conclusion we can draw. If He was not born in this unique way ^{THEY CAN'T TELL} at what time did He become divine? At what point of His life did God select or choose Him to be His Son? If He was not born this way then isn't it possible that I could stand here today and have the effrontery and the nerve to tell you that I am the Son of God? Why not? Didn't Christ preach? Didn't He quote scripture? Then what makes Him so different from me or any of us for that matter? If He was born in an ordinary way then He was nothing more than an ordinary man. But I say the manner of His birth is what separated Him from ordinary man. Therefore I believe it is important that we believe in this un-ordinary and unique birth.

The second reason for believing this is that if we do not

believe it then we are liars and hypocrites. Yes I said liars and hypocrites. ^{WHEN} ~~Each Sunday morning~~ we profess together our belief by repeating the Apostles Creed, ~~if~~ we say, "We believe in Jesus Christ God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary," ^{if} and we do not believe this then we are liars. We cannot just blindly repeat something like this and not believe it in our hearts, or we are lying to God and are hypocrites because of our lie. It would be better if we didn't say the Creed at all, as to say it and not believe it. If we have never given this much thought, perhaps we should take the time in the next couple of days and go over the Apostles Creed. By this I mean to take it apart statement by statement and ponder each one, to see what we believe about it. Maybe if each one of us did this we may become not only enlightened but strengthen our belief as well.

The third reason we should believe in this unique birth is because we cannot understand how God works and does things. We can look at this birth as scientists do and say that physically, biologically, chemically, or any other scientific way it is impossible for anyone to be born this way. However if we look at this birth religiously, then we can understand it because all things are possible with God. ^{ONE VERSE IN LUKE 1:37 NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD} If we believe in the God that we always talk about, a God who can work miracles, a God who is a creator, then we can believe that Christ was born as stated. God has always revealed Himself to man in strange and unusual ways and if He revealed His Son in an ordinary way then Christ would not necessarily be divine. These then are the reasons we should believe in the virgin birth. We can choose to not believe if we so desire. We can join the ranks of those who do not believe if we wish. But I feel in my heart that this is something we need to believe perhaps more so than many other Doctrines. Now I am not saying that we should not question things such as this. We should do so by all means. But it should be done reverently and prayerfully. ~~and~~. We can question and seek to find the truth but only if we do so with an open mind. Some people question Doctrines such as this with the full intent of tearing Christianity and the Church apart.

This should never be our aim or our goal.

This all boils down to the fact that God sent His Son into the world in a unique way . Whether we believe or disbelieve is up to each one of us individually. So as once again we come to worship the Christ child we can answer the question, "What child is this?", with the answer, a miraculous child. A child revealed by God in a miraculous way. A gift of love, given to mankind. A mankind that is not only unloving but unlovable. This is what God did for us so miraculously. Come to the manger and worship this child. Not as a baby but as the Lord and saviour of you and I. As the man who grew from this miraculous baby to take our sins upon Himself. Let us come and worship our king and bring to Him nothing but ourselves. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Let us pray.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 27, 1970

The Organ Prelude

*The Hymn of Praise 106 Stanzas 1,2,3,6

*The Call to Worship

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Where but in Thee have we a covert from the storm, or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, Thou alone knowest and art ever nigh; in sorrow Thy pity revives the fainting soul; in our prosperity and ease, it is Thy spirit only that can save us from pride and keep us humble. O Thou sole Source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with Thy prophets and saints, who have trusted in Thee and were not ashamed. Not of our worthiness, but of Thy tender mercy, hear our prayer; for the sake of Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture---Matthew 10:17-33

*The Gloria Patri

*Hymn 112

The Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Meditation 108

The Sermon--"Will The Real Christian Please Stand Up?"

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response 120

*The Benediction

*The Threefold Amen

*The Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will have Communion January 10th. The Rev. James Gold will exchange pulpits with your pastor on this date.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation is invited to the wedding of Susan Colleen Gamber and John Wayne Hostetter this afternoon at 2:30 P.M.

Call to Worship: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. This God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death.

He that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Hear the comforting words of the Scriptures to all who truly repent: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. As far as the East is from the West, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Amen.

WILL THE REAL CHRISTIAN PLEASE STAND UP?
Stand Up And Be Counted

MATT

Text Matt: 10: 32-33.

~~"Whoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father."~~ So IF ANYONE DECLARES HIMSELF FOR ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MEN, I WILL DECLARE MYSELF FOR HIM IN THE PRESENCE OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. (JERUSALEM BIBLE)

In our present day world we are called upon many times to take a stand for or against something. In politics we are either for or against a candidate. We are either for or against the platform they run on. In our everyday life we must decide if we are for or against the improvements of our communities. Taxes, zoning changes, street paving, sewers and so on. And even in religion we are called upon to be for or against things in the church. Synod actions, merging with other congregations, and things that are brought before our individual congregations for a vote. In order to be pro or con on any subject we must be informed on just what we are for or against. We are to be concerned mainly with being for or against Christ this morning. Maybe you are thinking that I'm way off base in suggesting that any of us may be against Christ. Let me hasten to add that is not my intent. I realize that surely we must be for Christ or we would not be here this morning. But to what degree? Are we totally committed to Him or do we merely pay Him lip service? Is our life Christ centered or do we keep His name silent when we should speak it? To answer these and any of the other things we shall propose this morning calls for a little soul searching. If we are honest with ourselves we can soon enough find out where we stand.

~~"Whoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father."~~ So IF ANYONE DECLARES HIMSELF FOR ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MEN I WILL DECLARE MYSELF FOR HIM IN THE PRESENCE OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. WILL THE REAL CHRISTIAN PLEASE STAND UP?

As I stated before we must first know what we are to be for or against. So briefly let us look at Christ to understand why we should be for

or against Him. Here is a man who came from a very humble beginning. The word humble here is a grave understatement. How many other great men can we think of who were born in a stable? According to our modern day standards looking at Christ from the human standpoint, He and His family would be the number one candidates for our poverty program, care and any other welfare program we have. But from His poor and humble beginning He became the greatest single individual the world has ever known. Simply this, He was able to do things that no one else could do. Such as curing the sick, raising the dead and other feats. The greatest feat He performed was to be crucified and after being dead three days arise from the dead. Now you may say we all know this. Yes we do. But have you ever stopped to ask just why it is we should be for or against Him? The main reason is that He was and is the Son of God. We all believe that God is our creator and that He sent His Son into the world to suffer and die for us. But we must carry this one step further and ask why God did this for us? If we go back to Biblical times we find that man time after time turned from God and His commandments. God was concerned about His people just as He is today. And in order to redeem His people He sacrificed His Son for us. So it all boils down to this. If Christ who was without sin took our sin upon Himself and suffered and died for us, then the reason for being for Him is clear. We should stand up and be counted for Christ.

~~"Whoever shall confess Me before men, him will I also confess before My Father."~~ ^{CRYSTAL} ~~SO IF ANYONE DECLARES HIMSELF FOR ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MEN, I WILL DECLARE MYSELF FOR HIM IN THE PRESENCE OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN.~~

We are living in a world today filled with frustration and anxiety and tension. We hear it on the radio. We see it on television. We read it in the newspaper. One nation is suspicious of another nation. One race of people is suspicious of another race. Groups of individuals are set against other groups in city after city in our country. Why all this frustration, anxiety, and tension? The answer is an emphatic lack

of Christ in the world, our nation, and in our individual lives. We have a grave problem in our country today that is a direct result of our world's turmoil and frustration and tension. This problem is mental health. The problem keeps growing every year. There are simply not enough institutions or funds to cope with the growth of this problem.

^{PAST FEW YEARS} In the ~~past month or so~~ ^{WE} we have read and heard of ~~an~~ individual ~~who~~ who went on a rampage in Chicago and killed 18 young nurses. An individual in Texas killed 13 more. These events happen almost every day somewhere in our country or the world. Somewhere along the line these people have gotten out of touch with God. Now I am not saying that simply by believing in Christ will cure mental illness. Not at all. Because there are certain types of mental illness brought on by conditions other than frustration and anxiety. We can read accounts of mental illness in the New Testament. So you see it is not a new problem at all. But what I am trying to say is that if we put Christ foremost in our lives we can greatly reduce our chances of having mental illness. By putting Christ foremost I mean placing Him before our ambitions, our selfish desires, our search for prosperity and security, our businesses, our professions, and whatever we strive to excel at or have more of. I was talking to a man not long ago, who told me he can't sleep at night because he worries about the Red Chinese problem and the problem that some demented individual may drop the bomb on us. He is really concerned about this and he ~~he~~ said it is on his mind constantly. Now is he some kind of nut or just one person that feels this way? I think not. He is a normal person in all respects. And there are many, many people who feel this way. Talk to some people on these subjects and see what their reaction is and how they feel. You may be surprised at how many people are really worried about issues such as these. Does it do us any good to worry about these things? We know that it doesn't. We as individuals cannot do anything about ^{solving} these problems. Neither can we stop frustration and anxiety from coming into

our lives. We all have problems. You have them and so do I. Everyone does. But if we are entirely and completely committed to Christ we can overcome our fears and anxieties. Christ gives us the strength to go on no matter how insurmountable our troubles may seem. Thinking along these same lines I think we should also point out that the modern trend today is to try to run away from our problems and troubles. Like a popular tune written a few years ago states, "Let's get away from it all" ^{AN AUTO COMMERCIAL HAD "THE ESCAPE CAR"} Whenever trouble comes many people take flight. They go on a trip. They go somewhere to be amused or entertained. They seek some outlet to let them forget their troubles. And they delay and stall in facing the inevitable. And that is that someday at some time they must meet their problem headon. We can take a trip to California or the far reaches of Alaska. And when we return our trouble will still be here. We can go to ^{A PLAY} the Civic Light Opera, or one of the downtown movie theatres, or the museum, or any place trying to forget our cares. But upon our return our troubles will be right where we left them. If indeed they have not traveled right along with us. So you see we cannot escape our worries and cares. It takes more courage to face up to them and straighten them out than it does to run. But if we look to Christ we can have the strength and courage we need to carry on. ~~"Whoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before my Father."~~ ^{IF ANYONE DECLARED HIMSELF FOR ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MEN, I WILL DECLARE MYSELF FOR HIM IN THE PRESENCE OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN} Our country is supposed to be a religious nation. A church going people. But are we? Do we really belong to a church because we have need of it, or do we have ulterior motives for belonging? In surveys made recently it has been noted that a large majority of protestants do not even know in what they believe. When asked in what they specifically believed most of them could not even give the first part of the Apostles Creed for an answer. Now is this a sign of a religious people? We know it isn't. The reason for this lack of knowledge is due to the fact that many people have a lackadaisical way of looking at the church. You just

get up in front of the congregation mutter a few I do's and then come when you feel like it or stay at home. We need to try to educate these people in what our commitment should mean. When we stand before this Altar or any other we are asked if we believe in God as our Father and in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Then we are asked if we vow to serve Him and to do His will in our lives. Naturally we say we do. But do these words "serve Him " really mean something or are they simply words to be forgotten and ignored? Unfortunately to many people they are words to be ignored. But if we are to serve Him we must confess Him. This confession is more than just saying it when we are accepted as church members. Or more than just saying it when we repeat the Apostles Creed. The tragic thing is that we hear Christ confessed more in cursing than we do otherwise. If we are to confess Christ before men that means to live our lives as a visible means of showing we belong to Him. And we must also confess Christ personally to other people. Almost all of us get many opportunities to do this and we fail to stand up and be counted for Christ. Why? Because we are afraid to be laughed at. Or we are afraid to be different from the crowd. We shall never win any popularity contests by confessing Christ before men. Christ Himself told us this. But we must remember that our reward is not here on this earth. So the next time the occasion arises to talk to someone of Christ, ask Christ for the ability to speak and you will be amazed at the help He will give you if you let Him. It is a strange phenomena indeed that Christ will give us the actual words of praise to tell other people about Himself. But it is true. If you have never experienced this believe me when I say that the experience is very rewarding. Not in praise or glory you may receive from your fellowman but from the spiritual satisfaction you will get. The spiritual satisfaction derived from confessing Christ to others is unlike anything that you will experience in your life. It is an undefinable blessing that comes to you and seems to uplift and strengthen

you. So let us each one make up our minds this day that whenever the next opportunity to speak to someone about Christ comes along, we will be prepared to stand up and be counted. If we do this we will be doing Christ's bidding when He says, "If anyone declares himself for Me in the presence of men, I will declare Myself for him in the presence of My Father in heaven."

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus's blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name. When He shall come with trumpet sound oh may I then in Him be found, Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand."

This is what one hymn writer has penned as a credo of life. This or something similar to it should become our theme of life. We need to each take a stand either for or against Christ. Will the real Christian please stand up?